

June 24, 1996
Queen rejects Diana in 'queen of hearts' role
LONDON (AP) — Princess Diana's Palace has rejected the suggestion that she should be crowned 'queen of hearts' in a new role.
The suggestion came from a group of people who wanted to see Diana as a more powerful figure, one who could stand up to the royal establishment.
But the Palace has said that Diana's role is to support the monarch, and that she should not be seen as a rival to the queen.
The suggestion was also seen as an attempt to undermine the monarchy, and the Palace has said that it will not entertain such ideas.

Ekeus: Iraq still hiding weapons
UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Iraq is hiding banned weapons, the top U.N. arms inspector said Monday, after Baghdad submitted what it called final declaration on its chemical and biological weapons programmes. Rolf Ekeus said some material has been stored on trucks and is moved around the country to frustrate U.N. arms inspectors. This weekend, Iraq presented Mr. Ekeus with what it called complete files on its banned chemical and biological weapons programmes. Mr. Ekeus said declaration on Iraq's nuclear and missile programmes are expected soon. "We will definitely start the process of verifying the correctness of these files," Mr. Ekeus said in New York. He also told reporters components and weapons and... important documents explaining their programme. "Iraq has denied it is concealing any material. Mr. Ekeus travelled to Baghdad last week after Iraq blocked inspectors from several bases and said it would ban the monitors from entering government ministries and sensitive military bases. IAEA expert in Iraq, page 12

Jordan Times

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British official due here today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The director of Middle East affairs in the Foreign and Commonwealth office in London, Mr. John Shepherd, will be visiting Jordan on June 25-26 as part of a regional tour. Mr. Shepherd will hold talks with Prime Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti and other senior government figures covering bilateral relations and issues of regional concern.

Car bomb explodes in Manama

MANAMA (AP) — A car bomb went off Sunday outside a hotel in a busy part of the Bahraini capital Manama, and an anonymous caller said the blast was meant to pressure the government to free political prisoners. There were no reports of casualties from the blast shortly after 8 p.m. (1700 GMT) which caused little damage to the eight-story Le Vendôme Hotel. The bomb-laden car, a green Grand Marquis Ford with Saudi number plates, was destroyed. Three cars parked next to it were damaged, one badly, and the glass window of a nearby travel agency was shattered by the blast. Three fire engines and scores of policemen rushed to the hotel.

Yemeni president visits Paris

PARIS (R) — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh met French President Jacques Chirac on Monday while on a private visit to Paris. Yemeni and French officials said, France played a key role in convincing Yemen and Eritrea last month to agree to arbitration of their dispute over the Red Sea Haniish Islands, in which at least 12 people were killed in fighting last December. Mr. Saleh wanted to thank Mr. Chirac for France's mediation, which included sending military monitors to the islands, officials said. He also wanted to discuss cooperation between the two countries. Yemen also is seeking a rescheduling of its \$8 billion foreign debt through the informal Paris Club group of sovereign creditors.

Tichon elected Knesset speaker

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Knesset on Monday elected veteran lawmaker Dan Tichon, a polished but combative economist from the ruling Likud Party, as its speaker. "I will make every effort to bring the Knesset closer to the public and the public closer to the Knesset," Mr. Tichon said, vowing to improve legislators' dismal attendance record and make the televised sessions of the plenum "more interesting." As speaker, the 59-year-old Tichon will be in charge of maintaining order and decorum in a legislature some Israelis already consider plenty interesting — with sharp disagreements over policy frequently degenerating into invective and acrimony. Born in the northern port of Haifa and educated in Jerusalem, Mr. Tichon will be the first native Israeli to serve as speaker of the 120-member parliament. He defeated challenger Abdul Wahab Darawsheh of the Arab Democratic Party by a 60-8 vote Monday after besting two other Likud candidates earlier in the day.

Court to rule on Abu Zeid in August

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt's highest appeals court is to rule Aug. 5 on whether a Cairo university lecturer should be forced to divorce his wife on the grounds he is a heretic, judicial officials said Monday. The court of cassation was to have given its verdict on the case of Nasser Hamed Abu Zeid on Monday, but it was postponed to consider a change to Egyptian law.

Arabs hail summit as a new era in ties

Combined agency dispatches

ARAB COUNTRIES on Monday hailed their two-day summit saying it had turned the page on past feuds.

"The summit was very successful, this Arab conference was very important and was a very strong platform to recover Arab unity," said Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

Jibril Kuriyeh, spokesman for Syrian President Hafez Al Assad said: "The Arab summit has resulted in positive actions which have set a new stage for joint Arab action."

The final declaration adopted by 21 Arab leaders on Sunday in Cairo had defined "the path which the Arab countries will follow to face up to the challenges and arrive at a true peace." Mr. Kuriyeh added.

The Syrian press hailed the summit as a "victory for Syrian positions" in the peace process.

"By calling for a total Israeli retreat from the occupied Golan, Arab leaders showed their unanimous support for Syrian rights and backed its position," said official daily Al Thawra.

But the daily Tishrin urged Israel's new right-wing leadership to "define its position" in the peace process saying Arab leaders were testing its

desire for peace.

"In reaffirming their demands for peace, Arab leaders have ended the manoeuvring of Israel and its protectors, aimed at duping the Arabs and dividing them."

"The government of Benjamin Netanyahu can stall no longer, it must define its final position in the peace process. The Arabs are saying... that the Israeli government policies cannot lead to peace, and Israel must revise these policies if it truly wants peace" the daily added.

"The final declaration strengthened the Arab line of defence against any Israeli infiltration and has led to the start of a reconciliation," the Qatari daily Al Watan wrote.

The Saudi daily Al Madina said the summit declaration was a "political programme" for the Arab World.

"The success of the summit lies in the fact that it was able to circumvent inter-Arab divisions and avoid in its final declaration using provocations or threats. It is the language of peace and a clear message for the Israeli government," the Saudi daily Al Riyadh wrote.

The gathering also "returned hope to the Arabs, torn by conflicts and restored order to our house," added the United Arab Emirates daily Al Khaleej.

For the Saudi daily Okaz it marked "the first steps in reconciliation between Arab leaders. That is the best way to confront Israeli intransigence."

But Iraq, the only Arab country not invited to the summit because of lingering divisions following its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, sounded a discordant note, accusing its fellow Arabs of bowing to U.S. pressure.

"You rush to please Israel. You seek the sympathy of the United States, Russia, Europe and Japan to make Israel launch talks with you, but you reject any dialogue with a brother country subjected to six years of collective genocide," said the official daily Al Jumhuriya.

The summit, the first since the invasion, was marked by symbolic reconciliations as the Arab World buried past differences to forge a united position on the peace process after the right-wing victory in Israeli elections.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak overcame differences to hold talks with his Sudanese counterpart Omar Hassan Al Bashir, even though Cairo has accused Khartoum of aiding an assassination attempt against Mr. Mubarak.

(Continued on page 7)

Netanyahu willing to meet Arafat if it will serve Israel

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was quoted as saying in an interview in Newsweek that he was willing to meet Palestinian President Yasser Arafat if he deemed it "important for Israel's security and interests."

Mr. Netanyahu also told Newsweek that he rejected Arab conditions for peace negotiations as spelt out in the final communiqué of the Cairo Arab summit which ended Sunday.

Negotiations towards a final settlement with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) would continue "providing it keeps its obligations," including blocking militant attacks against Israel, he said.

Mr. Netanyahu told Newsweek he would seek peace with Syria "but not one based on withdrawal from the Golan."

Israeli Foreign Minister

David Levy also rejected Arab demands that it give up the Golan Heights and East Jerusalem, and said Israel would not be subject to "dictates" from the Arab world.

The version of the other side that Israel must make total withdrawal and divide Jerusalem, if not more, and dismantle the settlements, etc., etc. — this position is not acceptable to us," Mr. Levy said on Israel Radio.

Mr. Netanyahu earlier called any such preconditions "incompatible with peace negotiations" and said they "must be removed."

"The peace process cannot be made hostage to any prior conditions," he said.

Arab leaders meeting in Cairo on Sunday endorsed the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital and warned that normalisation of Arab-Israeli ties would be discouraged if Israel abandoned a land-for-peace for-

mula. "Israel has made clear that it would not accept any dictates or forcing of results before negotiations were completed," Mr. Levy said Monday. "This contradicts all the rules."

Yossi Beilin, a minister in the previous government of Shimon Peres and an architect of the autonomy accord with the Palestinians, said the summit was "not a positive development."

The Arab leaders met over the weekend in response to Mr. Netanyahu's May 29 victory, aiming to pressure the new Israeli government into continuing the peace policies of its predecessor.

Uzi Landau, the new head of the Israeli parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee, accused "the Arab countries under the leadership of Egypt" of trying to intimidate Israel.

(Continued on page 3)

Clinton assures PLO leader of commitment

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — U.S. President Bill Clinton has written to Yasser Arafat to assure him of his commitment to Mideast peace, the Palestinian leader's spokesman said Monday.

In a letter to Mr. Arafat, Mr. Clinton "stressed his personal commitment and that of his country to the peace process and promised to exert all his efforts to see it succeed," said Nabli Abu Rdaina.

He said the letter was delivered to Mr. Arafat in Gaza on Monday by Edward Abington, the U.S. consul general in Jerusalem.

The U.S. consulate confirmed that such a letter was delivered to Mr. Arafat. Earlier, Mr. Arafat told reporters that the two-day Arab summit in Cairo helped heal rifts among some rival leaders.

The summit that ended Sunday opened "a new page among all of us," Mr. Arafat said. "The Arab summit conference was very fruitful, very

important and a very strong platform for recovering Arab unity and Arab solidarity."

Arab leaders met over the weekend in response to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's May 29 election victory, aiming to pressure the new Israeli government into continuing its predecessor's peace policies.

Some progress was reported in resolving inter-Arab disputes caused by the 1991 Gulf war and by peace moves with Israel.

Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak managed to bring together Syrian President Hafez Assad with Mr. Arafat and King Hussein.

Mr. Assad was upset at the two, for going ahead with peace accords with Israel instead of waiting until the Jewish state made peace accords with Syria and Lebanon, too.

After the meeting in Cairo, Mr. Assad invited Mr. Arafat to visit Damascus.

Mr. Arafat also met with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, who expelled 2,000

Palestinians last year to focus attention on the shortcomings of the Israeli-Palestinian peace accords.

Mr. Arafat is due to meet Wednesday in Cairo with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher following talks between the U.S. diplomat and Mr. Netanyahu on Tuesday.

"President Arafat will meet Mr. Christopher in Cairo on Wednesday," said Mr. Abu Rdaina.

"They will discuss the situation following the latest changes on the Israeli arena and following the resolutions of the Arab summit. They will also discuss the developments in the Middle East peace process," he said.

Palestinian legislative council member Haidar Abdul Shafi, who led the Palestinian delegation at the 1991 Middle East peace conference in Madrid that launched Israeli-Arab negotiations, called on the United States and Russia on Monday to reconvene the conference

(Continued on page 3)



DEMONSTRATION FOR PEACE: Israeli peace activists demonstrate in Tel Aviv Monday outside the Israeli defence ministry demanding the new government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu honour an accord cut by the previous government with the PLO by which Israeli troops would redeploy in the West Bank town of Hebron. The protest came a day before a visit by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to Israel (Reuter photo)

Kabariti briefs EU envoys on summit

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Monday briefed European Union (EU) ambassadors in Jordan on the outcome of the Arab summit meeting which ended Sunday in Cairo and emphasised the need for the EU to maintain its full support for the Middle East peace process.

Speaking at a meeting with the envoys in his office, Mr. Kabariti said that it was important to build on the summit's resolutions that pertain to the peace process to which all the Arab countries are committed because, he said, they all seek a durable and comprehensive peace based on U.N. resolutions and as agreed on at the Madrid peace conference.

Thanking the EU nations

for their continued backing to the peace process Mr. Kabariti noted that the EU leaders have emphasised their position with regard to the peace process during a recent meeting. But he said the Europeans should back the resolutions of the Arab summit meeting in order to ensure the success of the peace process in the region.

During the meeting discussions covered EU-Jordanian relations and the negotiations for Jordan to conclude a partnership agreement with the EU.

In this respect Mr. Kabariti reaffirmed Jordan's total commitment to the Barcelona conference and its resolutions in all their political, security, economic, social and cultural aspects.

France said Monday it

backed the Arab summit statement that there was no going back on Israel swapping occupied land for peace in the Middle East.

"The Cairo summit reaffirmed the Arab states' commitment to pursue the peace process according to the principles on which it is founded and the agreements that have already been reached," French Foreign Minister Jacques Douriaux told reporters.

But Mr. Douriaux added: "As you know, the new Israeli prime minister (Benjamin Netanyahu) has also reaffirmed his willingness to pursue the peace process."

At the Cairo meeting, Arab leaders from 21 states warned Israel's new government they

would reconsider the promises they made in five years of peace talks if Israel tried to do the same.

They said their price for full peaceful relations was Israel's complete withdrawal from occupied lands, as agreed at a 1991 peace conference.

Kabariti to brief House

Mr. Kabariti is today expected to brief the Lower House of Parliament on the outcome of the Arab summit during a meeting which will be held at the Hall of Pictures within the Parliament complex.

House Speaker Saad Hayel Srour said that the prime minister was expected to

(Continued on page 3)

U.S. seeks to stiffen its resolve for peace

WASHINGTON (AFP) — U.S. secretary of State Warren Christopher flies to the Middle East on Tuesday seeking to stiffen the region's resolve for peace, cast into doubt by the emergence of a right-wing government in Israel.

He will hold his first meeting with the new Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, just two days after 21 Arab states meeting in Cairo warned Israel to respect commitments made by Mr. Netanyahu's Labour predecessors, Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin.

On Wednesday Mr. Christopher is due in Cairo to meet Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

His return to the region comes at a crucial juncture, with both Israel and the Arabs having polarised their positions amid dimmed hopes for the future of the peace process.

Mr. Netanyahu has reaffirmed his opposition, loudly proclaimed during his time as opposition leader, to the creation of a Palestinian state, the return of the Golan Heights to Syria and discussions on the status of Jerusalem.

On Sunday Arab leaders attending a summit in Cairo said Israel must stand by its

(Continued on page 3)

Exiles deny receiving U.S. aid to overthrow Saddam

AMMAN (AFP) — An Iraqi opposition group based in Jordan denied in a communiqué Monday it had received financial aid from the United States to overthrow Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The Washington Post reported Sunday that U.S. President Bill Clinton authorised a \$6 million payment to the group, the Iraqi National Accord, in January to fund its activities.

But the group said in a statement: "The Iraqi National Accord knows nothing about aid from the U.S. administration to Iraqi efforts to overthrow Saddam Hussein, as reported in the Washington Post."

However, it did not deny the newspaper's reports of links with the U.S. intelligence, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

"Our movement will not hesitate to meet any country or party, with the exception of Israel, if the objective of such meetings is to put an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people and increase the isolation of the dictatorial regime in power" in Baghdad, the statement said.

It said its strategy to oust President Saddam "depends on the ranks of the army and the support of different sectors of society, Arab and regional support as well as international support, especially from the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council."

The Post said the group was plotting a coup by military leaders in the Iraqi president's entourage but that its chances of success were limited as the Iraqi opposition was divided.

Succession battle is launched in Greece

ATHENS (R) — Greek Premier Costas Simitis and Interior Minister Akis Tsohatzopoulos looked certain on Monday to wage a bitter battle to succeed the late party founder and political legend Andreas Papandreu.

Mr. Papandreu died after a heart attack on Sunday, setting the stage for a showdown among his ambitious lieutenants for control of the powerful socialist party machine.

The Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) will elect his successor on Sunday at the end of a four-day congress attended by more than 4,000 delegates.

The successor will be the first new PASOK president since 1974 when Mr. Papandreu forged the party from various leftist factions after the fall of a seven-year military dictatorship. He led the party to three national election wins.

Thousands of Greeks lined up outside Athens' cathedral in sweltering heat to pay their last respects to Mr. Papandreu, one of Greece's most

popular and influential leaders this century (see page 4).

His black-clad widow Dimitra Liani wept as she received condolences, obviously shattered.

While preparations were made for his funeral on Wednesday, the rival PASOK candidates were rallying support among delegates.

Both Mr. Simitis and Mr. Tsohatzopoulos contend that their election will unite the divided and disoriented PASOK, trailing slightly in opinion polls behind the conservative opposition party.

The race could boil down to a personality clash between Mr. Simitis, a pro-European reformer who challenged Mr. Papandreu's autocratic rule, and Mr. Tsohatzopoulos, a Papandreu lieutenant who embraces his populist style.

The choice for the party's future will be clear: If Mr. Simitis, 60, wins, he will have full control over both the government and the PASOK party machine to carry out his

(Continued on page 7)

The Embassy of the Hellenic Republic in Amman informs with profound sorrow that
Former Prime Minister of Greece
Andreas Papandreu
passed away, on Sunday 23rd June 1996.
A register of condolences will be opened at the Ambassador's Residence Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th of June 1996

Muslim leader fears unrest if Israel follows radicals on Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The mufti of Jerusalem, the highest ranking Muslim clergyman in the Holy City, was fuming about an Israeli proposal to give Jews the right to pray in the Al Aqsa Mosque complex.

"It's not a matter for negotiation or compromise," Ikrama Sabri, his voice rising with emotion, said in an interview Monday.

"Al Aqsa is an Islamic mosque by a decree of Allah," he said.

The smooth stone floors and vaulted ceiling of his 800-year-old office sit astride the fault-line of the Arab-Israeli conflict — the wall that separates Jewish and Muslim holy places in the Old City.

To the Muslims, the Al Aqsa complex is known as the Haram Al Sharif, the noble sanctuary, the place where an outcropping of rock marks the site where the Prophet Mohammed ascended to heaven on a white steed.

To the Jews, it is the Temple Mount, sacred site of the ancient temple first built by King Solomon and destroyed by the Roman Tenth Legion in AD. 70.

Sheikh Sabri, his white turban resting on a shelf of holy books under a sign that declares him mufti, or interpreter of religious law, for Jerusalem and the Holy Land, said the Koran suggests the children of Israel will lay waste to the earth.

"This is what Allah said. And we consider what is happening now as a beginning for this if and, or destruction, when Jews reach the level that they will trigger God's wrath," said Sheikh Sabri, who was appointed by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Jews pray at the Western Wall, the holiest site in Judaism which, they say, was built as a containment wall for the temple rebuilt by King Herod, directly below the Al Aqsa site. But to prevent conflict successive Israeli governments have kept the site out-of-bounds for Jews to pray since it was seized in the 1967 Middle East war.

"I want the right of Jewish prayer on the Temple Mount just like other religions have rights," said Hanan Porat, a lawmaker from the National Religious Party whose proposal made front-page news in Arabic dailies Monday.

Mr. Porat called on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's new Likud party-led government to make good on a promise in its guidelines to make "prayer arrangements for Jews at holy sites."

Israel's new minister in charge of police, Avigdor Kahalani, a former member of the liberal Labour party, said he would continue the policy of preventing prayer on the Temple Mount.

Most orthodox Jewish rabbis oppose Jews going to the Temple Mount, fearing that since no one knows the exact site of the ancient temple they could walk in the wrong place and desecrate the holy of holies.

"The rabbis today feel that the Temple Mount should be reserved for the time when the Messiah comes, and that's it," said Gadalia Schreiber, spokesman for Israel's chief rabbin.

The Al Aqsa Mosque complex has been the focal point of tensions at various times over the past 30 years and has the potential to trigger violence at any time. Several extremist Israeli

groups try regularly to pray on the Temple Mount and often clash with police.

Muslims protested in Jerusalem and violence spread throughout the region after an Australian man set fire to Al Aqsa in 1969 and 17 people were killed in 1990 when Israeli police opened fire on Palestinians who allegedly threw stones at Jews praying at the wall.

"It is our right to have fear and to be concerned about the statements from Israeli officials. We are afraid that these statements will be turned into deeds," said Sheikh Sabri.

His statement followed a meeting earlier in the day by the 12-member executive committee of the Higher Islamic Council, a group of lay and religious leaders who control Muslim affairs in the city.

The council expressed concern about the outcome if Jews were allowed into the Al Aqsa complex to pray. Non-Muslim visitors are currently allowed to visit the site but not to worship, police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said.

Sheikh Sabri made clear to a visiting U.S. diplomat who arrived in the midst of the interview that he held the United States responsible for any unrest.

"We consider the United States would be responsible for any tension in the city from the Likud people," said Sheikh Sabri, expressing fear that U.S. President Bill Clinton would "try to appease" Israel and American Jewish voters in his reelection bid.

"We expect everything to be frozen, but we hope that Israel will not make any step against peace," he said.

Iran says Arab stand on Gulf islands raises heat

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said the Arab summit stand backing the United Arab Emirates' claim over three disputed Gulf islands would increase tensions in the region, the official Iranian News Agency (IRNA) reported late on Sunday.

"It was better for the Arab countries to encourage the (United Arab) Emirates ... to hold direct negotiations with Iran instead of indulging in vain propaganda which will bear no result except increasing tension and paving the way for outsiders to interfere in regional affairs," IRNA quoted Foreign Ministry spokesman Morteza Sarmadi as saying.

Arab leaders meeting in Cairo over the weekend supported the UAE's claim over Abu Musa and nearby Greater and Lesser Tunb and called on Iran to end its "occupation" of the islands.

Iran and the UAE both claim sovereignty over the islands, which are near key Gulf oil shipping lanes.

Mr. Sarmadi said Iran was ready to negotiate with the UAE over the islands but stressed that they belonged to Tehran forever, IRNA said.

"Stressing that the islands belong to Iran forever, he once again announced the readiness of Islamic Iran to sit at the negotiating table with the United Arab Emirates in order to remove the misunderstandings," the agency said.

The UAE has urged Tehran to agree to taking the dispute to the

International Court of Justice in the Hague.

Iran says its sovereignty over the islands is not negotiable and has called for bilateral talks with the UAE to clear up any misunderstandings.

Iran opened an airport on Abu Musa in March.

In April it opened a 1.6 megawatt power plant on Greater Tunb island, a move that was condemned by the UAE as a violation of the rules of international law and its sovereignty.

Gulf states have grown increasingly nervous about their powerful neighbour across the waterway.

Bahrain recently accused Tehran of masterminding a plot to topple the government by force, a charge that Tehran denied.

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India to build chemical plant in Iran

LONDON (AP) — India has agreed to build a sophisticated chemical plant in Iran that could be used to manufacture chemical weapons, the Sunday Telegraph reported.

The plant will manufacture phosphorous pentasulphide, which can be used to make pesticides or the same kind of chemical weapons Iraq used against the Kurds at the end of the 1991 Gulf war, the paper said.

"It can also be used to make primitive chemical weapons which could be fitted to ballistic missiles for use against Iran's longstanding enemies, such as Israel," the paper said.

According to the Sunday

Telegraph, the Iranians raised the possibility of a chemical plant deal during a state visit to New Delhi by Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani last year.

The secret deal, believed to be worth more than \$15.4 million, was negotiated earlier this year by Melli Agrochemicals, an Iranian company specialising in pesticide production, it said.

Under the deal, an unidentified Bombay company will build a "turnkey" chemicals complex for the Iranians at Qazvin on the outskirts of Tehran, the paper said. Work is expected to begin later this year. The Sunday Telegraph said phosphorous pentasul-

phide has been identified as a trigger agent in lethal chemicals by the Australia Group, an international body set up to curb the development of chemical weapons.

Members of the Australia Group, including the United States and Britain, are required to observe strict restrictions on the use of phosphorous pentasulphide. But neither Iran nor India belong to the group, the paper said.

A study by the U.S. Office of Technology Assessment, published in August 1993, identified 20 countries most likely to have secret chemical weapons programmes, including Iran and India.

Iraqi-graduate contacts Israeli professor for help

The Jerusalem Post

AN IRAQI graduate student turned to an unlikely source for help on her dissertation in applied linguistics — the chairman of Bar Ilan's English Department.

"I am badly in need of your help," Zahra'a Nasir Talib wrote Professor Bernard Spolsky, in a letter mailed from Jordan, before asking him for recent material on her topic. "I am sorry for annoying you with a subject that might not be your interest. Forgive me! Believe me that your comments and opinions will be of great value for me," she concluded.

Spolsky's wife, Ellen, said the request almost went unanswered. "As chairman of the department, he's naturally very busy," she said. "He thought the letter was a joke, and was about to throw it away when I offered to handle it. We don't really know who she is, or how she found her way to Bernard. But we had extra copies of most of what she asked for, so we were glad to help."

Kennedy school institute to host Mideast economic conference

CAMBRIDGE — The Institute for Social and Economic Policy in the Middle East (ISEPME) of Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, is bringing Israeli and Palestinian leaders together for the first time since the Israeli election to discuss economic cooperation. The conference, which will feature ministers and top advisors from Egypt, Jordan, Israel and the Palestine National Authority, will be held in London on July 2-3; its purpose is to find a sustainable balance between trade and security, the ISEPME announced this week.

The keynote speakers at the conference will be the Egyptian minister of Foreign Affairs, Amr Musa; the Jordanian minister of information, Marwan Muasher; the Palestinian minister for planning and international cooperation Nabeel Sha'ath; and professor Moshe Arens, former Israeli minister of defence and foreign affairs. Economic experts and security specialists from the Middle East, the U.S., and the European Union will participate in the discussions.

Professor Leonard Hausman, Director of Harvard's Middle East Institute, notes that just prior to the 1993 Israeli-Palestinian peace

accord, Israeli-Jordanian experts working under this Institute's umbrella with leading Harvard and MIT economists, recommended an Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian customs union. This approach was adopted by the Israelis and Palestinians. Now, because of growing hostility and the closure of the Palestinian territories, questions have been raised about the viability of this approach.

Kennedy School Professor Robert Lawrence, a specialist in international trade, adds that the regionalisation process could bring prosperity to the region. A failure to implement it, on the other hand, will hurt all — including Israel. "There is no doubt in my mind that regional integration is the best solution for the long run. Today, however, we have to answer the immediate economic and security concerns," according to Dr. Lawrence.

Dr. Hausman said that an impartial host such as ISEPME can bring together both academic experts and political leaders to discuss common problems in a free and open manner. "The current situation in the Middle East requires creativity and perseverance," Dr. Hausman said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Deputy opposes Israeli 'first ladyship'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An opposition deputy sought on Monday to prevent Israel's new directly elected prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, from giving official first lady status to his wife Sarah. "The law introducing direct elections for prime minister in no way provides for giving a special status to his wife," Labour Party Deputy Rafi Elul told Israel Radio as the new parliament began its day-to-day business Monday. Mr. Elul notably objected to press reports that Mr. Netanyahu, 46, planned to provide a government office, secretary and official car for his wife, which would be a first in Israel. "The state is not obliged to finance an office for his wife or a tutor for his children," Mr. Elul said. Since coming to office last week, Mr. Netanyahu has taken several steps seen here as designed to turn the prime minister's office into an American style executive presidency. He created a national security council and a council of economic advisors both modelled on similar bodies in the White House. Sarah Netanyahu, 37, obtained her master's degree in child psychology last week from Jerusalem's Hebrew University.

9 killed, 40 wounded in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Nine people were killed and 40 others wounded as fighting between rival militiamen in south Mogadishu escalated late on Sunday, witnesses said Monday. The latest casualties in the clashes between supporters of warlord Mohamed Farah Aidede and those of his rival Osman Ali Atto bring to 17 the number of people killed in the violence during the past four days. More than 55 other people have been wounded. The combatants have since Friday battled with recoilless rifles, anti-aircraft guns, rocket-propelled grenades and mortars.

Anti-rocket laser to be tested in Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli-U.S. anti-rocket laser system will be tested in Israel soon for use against Katyusha rockets fired by Hizbollah guerrillas from Lebanon, a senior defence official said in an interview published Monday. Uzi Elam, head of the defence ministry's weapons research and development division, told the Israeli air force journal that the Nautilus laser system "seems to us to be the most promising defense against Katyushas fired" at northern Israel. "Soon we will have a working system that will arrive for tests and be deployed in the north," he said. "It's already clear that this will be an expensive system, the prototype itself will cost tens of millions of dollars, from which you can estimate the cost of the entire operational system," he said. The Hizbollah militia fired several hundred Katyusha rockets into northern Israel during Israel's 17-day-long Grapes of Wrath offensive against the movement in April. The Katyushas are highly mobile but inaccurate weapons with a range of slightly more than 20 kilometers.

Group claims fatal Istanbul attack

ISTANBUL (AP) — A leftist urban guerrilla group claimed responsibility Sunday for an attack on a branch office of former Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's party, a report said. A police officer and a suspected assailant were killed in a shootout Saturday in an Istanbul suburb. An anonymous caller, claiming to represent the Revolutionary People's Salvation Party, said the attack was launched to support hunger striking inmates, the Anatolia news agency said. About 2,000 leftist and Kurdish inmates have been on hunger strikes around the nation for more than 10 weeks to protest prison conditions. Meanwhile, the death toll rose to seven from another Saturday attack near the southeastern city of Diyarbakir, where four gunmen fired at patrons of an outdoor restaurant and hurled hand grenades. The latest victim died in a hospital. No one claimed responsibility for that attack, but it was suspected to be linked to Kurdish rebels, who have fought for autonomy in Turkey's southeast since 1984.

Algeria tries suspected killers of Merbah

PARIS (R) — Suspected killers of former Algerian Prime Minister Kasdi Merbah went on trial in Algeria on Monday, facing death by firing squad if found guilty, lawyers said. The Algerian lawyers, speaking by telephone from Algiers, said about 30 suspected militants were being tried by the criminal court of Tizi-Ouzou, 90 kilometres east of Algiers. Algerian authorities blamed guerrillas for Merbah's death, caught in an ambush and gunned down with his brother in August 1993 at the coastal suburb of Bordj Al Bahri, some 20 kilometres east of Algiers. More than 30 suspected militants were arrested after the murder. People were on trial for Merbah's murder but gave no other details. Algerian newspapers said 36 militants would appear in court.

Way cleared for Hekmatyar's arrival

KABUL (AFP) — Afghanistan's highest state body has formally cleared the way for former Premier Gulbuddin Hekmatyar to come to the capital to head the government. Kabul Radio said Monday.

"The state high council has endorsed and welcomed engineer Hekmatyar's expected arrival in Kabul to take up his new post," the radio said.

The council, made up of leaders of factions in the government alliance, gave its blessings just two days before Mr. Hekmatyar is due to be sworn-in as prime minister for the second time Wednesday.

The 10-man body's approval is needed to endorse any major political, military or economic decision taken by the Kabul government before it can be

implemented.

The council last month approved a military and political alliance between the beleaguered government and Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezbe-Islami party under which he will head the government while two of his top lieutenants will take over as ministers of defence and finance.

The May 24 pact should culminate in the swearing in of Mr. Hekmatyar, his new finance minister, Abdul Salam Hashmi and his defence minister, Waheedullah Sabawoon, at a ceremony here Wednesday.

The landmark deal came after months of negotiations between former foes Mr. Hekmatyar and President Burhanuddin Rabbani's government and after two years of bitter hostility between the two groups.

Mr. Hekmatyar, who became premier in 1993, never came to Kabul during his one-year term in office, basing himself instead at Charasiab, 25 kilometres south of here.

He split spectacularly with Mr. Rabbani by launching an abortive coup attempt in January 1994 with northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum which was eventually repulsed by the government.

Meanwhile the state news agency Bakhtar reported Monday that all necessary preparations had been made for Mr. Hekmatyar's first trip to Kabul in 16 years.

"Kabul is now ready to welcome the amir (chief) of the Hezbe-e-Islami. In order to welcome Hekmatyar to Kabul, several commissions have already been set up," it said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:00 Iris
15:15 Captain Planet
15:40 Hot Shots
16:00 The Bomb Moment Show
16:30 Comedy — ALF
17:00 News Flash
17:02 Only
17:15 Document — La Vie Devant Moi
17:30 Que Le Meilleur Gagne
18:00 Magazine — Savoir Plus Sante
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 Magazine — Ushuaia
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Encounter
20:00 Blossom (Comedy)
20:25 Deep Probe Expeditions
21:10 Star Trek
22:00 News At Ten
22:25 Feature Film: "For The Love of Aaron"
22:50 My Two Wives

PRAYER TIMES

03:51 Fajr
05:26 (Sunrise) Doha
12:38 Dhuhr
16:18 Asr
19:49 Maghreb
21:25 'Isha

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifish Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church
Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel.
661757
Terra Sancta Church Tel.
622366
Anglican Church Tel. 652826
Armenian Catholic Church
Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church
Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel.
771751
Armenian International Church
Tel. 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.
654932
Church of Nazarene Tel.
675691
The Evangelical Local Church

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Relative warm weather conditions will prevail with temperatures northeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly active and seas calm.
Min/Max temp.
Amman 20/34
Aqaba 25/41
Deserts 17/37
Jordan Valley 24/40
Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 33, Aqaba 39 Humidity readings: Amman 25 per cent, Aqaba 28 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Ramzi Mazzawi 894788
Dr. Bassam Karadsheh 759200
Dr. Salman Daboubi 776759

AMMAN

Dr. Abdul Wahab Arab 846070
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asama pharmacy 637055
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644845
Stameisani pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632
IRBID:
Dr. Mazen Abu Bakr 276852
Al Quds pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Rafiq Atallah 994422
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417
EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Dept. 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467

AMMAN Municipality Complaints

787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity 644281/6
Aklieh Maternity 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131

AMMAN Municipality Complaints

University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)83323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)86732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (02)247100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA AIRPORT
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

06:35 Beirut (RJ)

09:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:10 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:15 Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
13:00 Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
13:10 Paris, Madrid (RJ)
13:15 Cairo (RJ)
14:05 London (RJ)
19:15 Beirut (add) (RJ)
21:10 Lamaca (RJ)
21:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:45 Damascus (RJ)
22:30 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
23:59 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
01:00 Jeddah (RJ)
Other Flights
14:00 Munich, Aleppo (YP)
14:10 Frankfurt (YP)
16:00 Rome (AZ)
16:30 Dubai (EK)
19:35 Amsterdam (KL)
20:20 London (BA)
20:20 Aden (TY)
21:10 Beirut (ME)
21:15 Cairo (MS)
00:55 Bucharest (RO)
03:00 Kuwait (KU)
04:00 Amsterdam (KL)
Royal Wings (RW) Flights
09:50 Aqaba (RW)
19:45 Tel Aviv (RW)
DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
20:30 Aqaba (Marka Airport) proceeding to (MAIA) (RW)

Japan grants Jordan \$3.7 million to purchase agricultural needs

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Japanese government has granted a \$3.7 million grant to Jordan to finance the purchase of fertilisers, agricultural equipment and machinery by the Ministry of Agriculture to help the country boost its food production, according to an agreement signed in Amman Monday.

The grant, the fourth such provision from Japan, will also be used also to purchase vehicles and other items, according to a Japanese embassy statement.

Tokyo's Ambassador to Jordan, Takayuki Kimura, signed the agreement with Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf Huneidi.

Mr. Kimura told Jordan Television: "Today we agreed to provide a \$3.7 million grant for agricultural equipment and machinery to help improve Jordanian agriculture. The grant is another aspect of the multi-faceted assistance from Japan to the Jordanian economy. I appreciate Jordan's endeavours to promote Jordanian-Japanese relations and Japan Week in Jordan as well."

With the conclusion of Monday's agreement, Japan will have granted Jordan a total of \$18.2 million since 1993, specifically to help increase the country's food production.



Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf Huneidi and Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Takayuki Kimura Monday sign a grant agreement whereby Japan will provide Jordan with \$3.7 million to purchase agricultural needs to help raise food production (Petra photo)

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...The law introducing...
...in no way provides for...
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promising defense

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Ports corporation says no pollution from sunken ship

AQABA (Petra) — The Jordan Ports Corporation (JPC) Monday denied that there has been any pollution to Jordanian territorial waters in the Gulf of Aqaba as a result of an oil spill from a sinking vessel.

Recent local press reports quoted foreign news agencies as saying that an oil slick was discovered near the entrance to the Gulf of Aqaba following reports that a 26-tonne vessel hauling potash and phosphate from Jordan sunk when it hit a coral reef in the gulf.

The reports said the vessel was bound for the Far East.

The report attributed by Agence France Presse to the Egyptian police in Cairo said that the vessel was registered in Cyprus and sank on Saturday leaving a two-square kilometre oil slick in the sea.

Responding to the press reports, JPC Director General Mohammad Dalabeeh said the corporation has marine pollution-fighting equipment and a team of

qualified technicians prepared to deal with any such accidents within Jordan's territorial waters if necessary.

Captain Dalabeeh said that the pollution-fighting centre at Aqaba which was created early this year is considered one of the most advanced in the Red Sea region.

Established through a Japanese grant of \$5.5 million, the centre can control any form of marine pollution in the Aqaba region

and can act in cooperation with two similar centres in Eilat, Israel and Nweibeh, Sinai, in Egypt.

The Jordanian team at the centre has acquired the necessary equipment for locating any oil spills and dealing with them immediately, said Captain Dalabeeh, adding that the JPC is now planning to install special equipment to monitor vessel movements on the open seas and will purchase three speed boats to help in its pollution-control activities.

Envoy says Britain to continue economic, expert assistance to Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — British Ambassador to Jordan Peter Hinchcliffe Monday said Britain will continue to provide economic assistance and expertise to Jordan and will play a key role in helping the Kingdom attain partnership with the European Union (EU).

In an interview with Petra (the Jordan News Agency) on the occasion of the opening of a Jordanian Week in Britain, the ambassador said that Anglo-Jordanian relations are excellent and are especially strong in economic fields.

Mr. Hinchcliffe said the two sides are continually striving for even stronger ties.

The Jordanian Week event opens in London today and will include an exhibition of national products and a seminar on investment opportunities in Jordan.

In addition, Britain has

been involved in several Jordanian economic projects and has been assisting the country in restructuring the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC), he said.

Referring to the Jordanian Week, the ambassador said it is being held to mark Jordan's 50th anniversary of independence and it offers British and Jordanian businesspersons another opportunity to meet and discuss joint ventures.

Nearly 40 Jordanian companies are participating in the Jordanian Week activities by displaying various manufactured goods. The Ministry of Industry and Trade said invitations were sent to 250 British companies interested in the Jordanian markets to attend the week's activities.

Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb arrived in London Sunday

at the head of the delegation to the event. While there, Mr. Abul Ragheb will inaugurate the Jordanian Week and will hold talks with British government officials on economic cooperation.

The scheduled seminar, which the minister will address, will highlight the prospects of investments in Jordan and incentives offered to the investors.

The event follows a British Lifestyles Exhibition which was held in Amman between June 16 and 19, and during which more than 100 British companies exhibited their consumer products.

The balance of trade between the two countries is heavily in favour of Britain which last year sold JD 125 million worth of its products and imported JD 4.2 million worth of Jordanian goods.

EDF offers soft loans for small businesses

AMMAN (Petra) — Employment and Development Fund (EDF) Director General Ali Qubba'a Monday said vocational training school graduates in search of capital to start small businesses should contact the EDF about obtaining soft loans. He said unemployed persons considering the same prospects should look to the EDF as an avenue towards starting up their own income-generating projects.

The EDF, created in 1991, has granted a total of JD18,268,266 in loans to finance 3,704 production projects that created 8,354 jobs, according to Mr. Qubba'a.

He said that the EDF board is seeking to increase its loans to particular target groups especially in the rural and badia regions as

well as in other less fortunate areas where unemployment rates are highest.

Mr. Qubba'a said the fund is also financing the training of job-seekers in new and different trades with social development assistance from the European Union (EU).

The EU last year granted the EDF nearly \$4.5 million of which \$3 million were allocated for vocational training within the social development programme aimed at needy groups, added Mr. Qubba'a.

According to EDF rules, priority in obtaining the loans is given to unemployed persons who support a family and graduates of vocational training centres and universities upon demonstrating that they have acquired the appropriate

training required for the planned business and that they are serious about and committed to their proposed project.

Mr. Qubba'a said the EDF is currently financing handicrafts, services, tourist and agricultural projects.

Funding for the agricultural schemes is administered through the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC), he explained.

This year the EDF passed on JD 1 million to the ACC for loans to unemployed persons starting agricultural projects, Mr. Qubba'a said.

The EDF this year obtained government assistance of JD 2.5 million. The fund also depends on revenues from interest paid on loans to the public and interest paid on its bank deposits.

Mobil Oil eyes Jordan for investment prospects

AMMAN (J.T.) — A visiting official of Mobil Oil Company, an American oil industry giant, said here Monday that his firm was seeking to explore investment possibilities in Jordan, especially major economic schemes in cooperation with the government.

Mobil Vice President for the Middle East Area Ron Billings, also head of the company's branch in Qatar, told Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hashem Dabbas at a meeting Monday that his company has been marketing its products in Jordan for many years and is now interested in implementing projects in the country.

Discussion at the meeting covered the general Jordanian economic situation, prospects for foreign oil companies to invest in the country especially in oil and gas prospecting, and establishing of oil refineries, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Petra said Dr. Dabbas reviewed other agreements between Jordan and foreign oil firms on prospecting for oil and natural gas in the country in cooperation with the Natural Resources Authority (NRA), adding that Jordan must locate sufficient reserves to meet its growing energy needs.

Dr. Dabbas also reviewed the country's electric energy production which he said is on the rise in view of social and economic activities and industrial growth. He said the annual increase in electricity demands is estimated at 10 per cent.

Jordan this year signed deals with several U.S. firms to prospect for oil and gas. On June 16 the government and Corporate Holdings of America (CHA) signed an agreement under which a consortium led by CHA will build, operate and transfer a \$2.5 billion oil refinery at Aqaba.

A Mobil Oil Company team accompanying Mr. Billings attended the meeting with the minister.

U.S. seeks to stiffen resolve

(Continued from page 1)

commitments on trading land for peace or risk reversing the peace process and sparking further regional conflict.

Mr. Christopher will particularly wish to sound out the depth of Arab concern at Mr. Netanyahu's seeming intransigence after his statement late Sunday that he would not allow the peace process to be "made hostage" to prior conditions.

An earlier reaction in Israel had been relief at the "moderate" tone of the Cairo summit. Mr. Christopher's one-day visit to Israel will aim to judge first hand whether Mr. Netanyahu and his right-wing colleagues will make good on their promises to pursue the peace process, notably with regard to the partial withdrawal of Israeli troops from Hebron on the West Bank.

The pull out, due three months ago but delayed by Israel because of a spate of bombings in Israel, is seen by the Arabs as a litmus test of Israeli intentions.

Though the U.S. administration was careful not to come out too openly in support for Mr. Peres in the May elections, its preference was clear and Mr. Netanyahu's victory sent shivers of apprehension through the White House.

Mr. Netanyahu has proved prickly in his relations with Washington to date, for example refusing to receive the coordinator of U.S. Middle East policy Dennis Ross and insisting on seeing Mr. Christopher. He is intent, in the words of a European diplomat, on making the Americans "pay for their support for Peres."

John Burns, the State Department spokesman, stressed that the Mr. Christopher visit to Israel had been jointly decided by Israel and Washington, since Mr. Netanyahu is "new to the group" and it is thus normal for the U.S. envoy to travel to meet him.

Sceptics in Washington regarding Israel's intentions point to recently-published policy guidelines which reject the land-for-peace principles which have provided the basis for the peace process over the past four years.

There is concern too at the increasingly negative comments emerging from Damascus and the accompanying prospect of an anti-Mr. Netanyahu front forming around Syria.

Mr. Christopher has no plans to visit Damascus but

he will make a wider tour of the Middle East after Mr. Netanyahu has visited Washington "early next month."

Washington was also unhappy to note the presence at the Cairo summit of Sudan and Libya, which it considers to be terrorist states, but was prepared to accept that it was up to Egypt to decide who it wanted to attend. Mr. Christopher will leave Cairo on Wednesday to attend the Group of Seven summit in Lyon, France.

Netanyahu may meet Arafat

(Continued from page 1)

"It is hard to believe that someone who is trying to intimidate wants real peace," he said.

Mr. Netanyahu ran on a hardline campaign platform that endorsed the expansion of Jewish settlements and opposed withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Since the election, his failure to make direct contact with Mr. Arafat has increased Palestinian concern.

Israeli media, which presented the Cairo summit's final declaration as relatively moderate, said meanwhile Mr. Netanyahu's tactic was to highlight the negative in the Arab statement in the hope of getting a more sympathetic hearing from the Americans.

"There is no reason to present us as the guilty party," complained Mr. Levy in comments Monday to Israel Radio.

Israel Radio said Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Levy had carefully coordinated their comments stressing the "aggressive" nature of the Cairo declaration in a concerted effort to convince the United States that the intransigent party in the peace process was the Arab camp and not the right-wing government in Israel.

In preparation for his talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Tuesday, Mr. Netanyahu is also reportedly drawing up a list of alleged violations by the Palestinian National Authority of the Oslo accords granting limited autonomy to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

Israeli press reports say Mr. Netanyahu will use the allegations to justify Israeli non-compliance with certain requirements of the peace accords, notably the much-delayed Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank city of Hebron.

Kabariti briefs EU envoys

(Continued from page 1)

outline the discussions and resolutions of the summit and the Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian meeting that preceded the summit as well as Jordan's relations with other Arab countries.

At the meeting Mr. Kabariti will also reply to deputies' questions concerning internal and external affairs, according to Mr. Sour, who said that the deputies have the right to be formally informed on the outcome of these important meetings and the government's stand.

"We look forward to the coming meeting with Mr. Kabariti because we feel that

NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Slovenian President

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday cabled Slovenian President Milan Kokan congratulating him on his country's national day. His Majesty wished the Slovenian president continued good health and happiness and the people of Slovenia further progress and prosperity.

the monotheistic religions and to emphasise the cause of Jerusalem as a holy city for Muslims and Christians as well. Jabal Amman Parish Priest Salem Dawani said: "We chose Amman to hold our meeting for its religious status for the whole monotheistic religions." He praised Jordan for its religious tolerance and the affection among its various communities throughout its history.

Ensour receives Sabbah

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Higher Education Abdullah Ensour received at his office the Roman Catholic Patriarch in Jordan and Jerusalem, Rev. Michel Sabbah. Mr. Ensour and Rev. Sabbah discussed issues related to Christian church. Rev. Sabbah voiced appreciation for Jordan's stand towards all Arab issues and the King's wise and moderate policy.

UNESCO opens 3rd office

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Education Munther Masri and the director of the regional office of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Abdul Qader Al Attrash Monday discussed the opening of a new UNESCO office in Amman to deal with tourism, arts and music. UNESCO already operates two offices: the UNESCO office for Communication in the Arab States and the UNESCO Regional Office for Education in the Arab states. Dr. Masri said that the government will provide the organisation with all the facilities necessary for its operations.

Banks lend 3.8b in 5 months

AMMAN (Petra) — Commercial banks in the first quarter of this year granted credit facilities to various sectors amounting to JD3.873 billion, an increase of JD 497 million over the same period of last year, the monthly statistical bulletin of the Central Bank of Jordan shows. According to the bulletin JD 775 million went to the construction and the rest to industry, hotels, services, trade, mining and transport.

Tubeishat calls for environment body

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzak Tubeishat Monday urged the creation of an independent institution in Jordan. Speaking at a meeting with Saleh Al Share', the director of the department of environment protection, the minister said that the environment question in Jordan is very important since it is related to the work of various private and public sectors. He urged the private and public sectors to join hands in protecting the environment from various forms of pollution.

Anglicans to meet July 2

AMMAN (Petra) — Leaders of the Anglican church in Asia will hold their preparatory meeting for Lambeth conference July 2 in Amman. The conference which holds its sessions once every ten years will underline importance of dialogue among

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

"Amadiya" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 7:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

"Ceramics exhibition at Jordan Design and Trade Centre, off Wadi Sagra Street (Tel. 659141/2), until July 25.

"Display of hand-made carpets by Mas'ad Basha at Alia Art Gallery, Jabal Amman (Tel. 639383), until June 27.

"Abstract (Plastic) art by Arab women artists at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 687598), until July 4.

"Fine arts exhibition entitled "What About Figures" by Noelle Shawa at Concepts for consultancy Quarters (Tel. 815-384), until June 30.

"Works by contemporary Arab artists at Darat Al Funn, Jabal Weibdeh, until June 30.

"Works by Rafic Majoub at the French Cultural Centre, until June 27.

"Works by Ahmad Nawash at the Jordan Plastic Arts Association, Jabal Weibdeh until June 29, Tel. 623297.

Russia says Chechenya troop withdrawal to start Friday

MOSCOW (R) — The commander of Russian forces in Chechenya said Monday he would begin pulling troops out of the region at the end of this week, news agencies reported.

ITAR-TASS and Interfax quoted Lieutenant-General Vyacheslav Tikhomirov as saying the 245th Mechanised Infantry Regiment, one of the main federal army units in the breakaway region, would begin to withdraw Friday. He told a news conference in the Chechen capital Grozny that the move was unilateral and imposed no new conditions on the separatist guerrillas who have fought the army for 18 months.

"Now the ball is in their court," Interfax quoted him as saying. Chechen separatists and the Russian government agreed at peace talks earlier this month that a withdrawal of Russian forces should be completed by Aug. 30 with the rebels laying down arms at the same time.

The two sides also agreed to exchange prisoners and are currently trying to settle on lists of those believed held.

Russia has previously announced

plans to withdraw individual units from parts of Chechenya or beyond the region's borders. But it is not clear that troop numbers — estimated at around 40,000 — have been reduced.

The withdrawal announced by Gen. Tikhomirov is likely to boost President Boris Yeltsin's reelection prospects in a runoff for the presidency against Communist Gennady Zyuganov on July 3.

Mr. Yeltsin has been under pressure from political rivals, whose support he is seeking in the second round of voting, to end the conflict which has cost more than 30,000 lives.

The Yabloko Party of liberal economist Grigory Yavlinsky, who came fourth in the first round of voting on June 16, has said a condition of giving Mr. Yeltsin its full endorsement is for the Kremlin to provide more details on how it would end the war.

Mr. Yavlinsky called Monday for the removal of those in the administration who, he said, still favoured continuing the war. Last week he sacked hawkish Defence Minister Pavel Grachev and three other leading figures in the state security hierarchy.

New Kremlin security adviser Alexander Lebed, who came third in the first round of the election, was due to meet Sergei Stepashin, the secretary of the State Commission on Settling the Chechen Crisis, Monday, TASS said.

Gen. Lebed would visit Chechenya after the second round of the election, Interfax said. It quoted a source in the Kremlin security apparatus as denying reports that the former general would visit the region this week.

Gen. Tikhomirov accused the separatists Monday of deliberately abusing the peace deal.

"For them it is a breathing space, to allow them to build up material and human resources for future combat activities," Interfax quoted him as saying.

One Omon police commando was killed and two were wounded Sunday night when guerrillas fired on their cars in Grozny.

Federal troops came under fire six times in Grozny overnight, news agencies reported, and a handful of shooting incidents occurred elsewhere in the region.



South Korean President Kim Young-Sam shakes hands with an army officer Monday during his visit to a central border area in the south of the Demilitarized Zone dividing the two Koreas. Mr. Kim's trip was made on the eve of the 46th anniversary of the 1950-53 Korean War which ended only with an armistice agreement (Reuters photo)

S. Korean president visits frontline troops on eve of war anniversary

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korean President Kim Young-Sam Monday visited frontline troops to mark the eve of the 46th anniversary of the outbreak of the 1950-53 Korean War, as North Korea protested allied military exercises.

"The Korean War taught us all that we invite an enemy invasion if we are not completely prepared and capable of defending ourselves," Mr. Kim was quoted by Yonhap News Agency as telling the troops in a frontline mess hall.

Accompanied by General Kim Dong-Jin, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Mr. Kim monitored North Korean military movements from an observation post 1,200 metres from the demilitarised zone (DMZ), Yonhap said.

The North's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) meanwhile lambasted "the U.S. imperialist war maniacs and the Kim Young-Sam group" of staging what it called "an adventurous joint air war exercise" on June 21 and June 22.

KCNA charged that an E-3 aerial command plane, and an EA-26 electronic jamming plane were involved in the exercise which it charged was "to



South Korean President Kim Young-Sam takes a look at areas north of the inter-Korean border through binoculars Monday at an army observatory post in a central border sector in the South (Reuters photo)

prepare a surprise attack on major targets in the interior of the DPRK (North Korea).

The South Korean and U.S. military commands do not comment on North Korean propaganda allegations, but have said they carry out continued training exercises for "any contingency."

The Korean War erupted on June 25, 1950 when North Korean troops poured across the 54th parallel, and

dragged on for three years with U.S.-led United Nations troops fighting for the South and Chinese "volunteers" for the North.

The conflict ended in an inconclusive truce which left the country divided at the DMZ.

North Korea this year let U.S. officials into the country for the first time to help seek for the remains of some 8,000 U.S. troops listed as missing in the 1950-53 war.

Kinkel urges calm over China snub

BONN (AFP) — German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said Monday he hoped he could limit the damage caused by China's postponement of his scheduled visit to Beijing in retaliation for a Bundestag resolution condemning human rights violations in Tibet.

"We must react calmly. It is neither in Beijing's interest nor in ours to slam the door on each other," he told reporters here.

"The important thing is to limit the damage."

Beijing announced the postponement of the July 11 engagement Sunday after the Bundestag Thursday voted an all-party motion condemning Chinese policies in Tibet.

It said: "The Chinese side feels that given the current situation, the planned visit by Foreign Minister Kinkel on July 11-14 could not take place in a suitable atmosphere."

The action against Mr. Kinkel's visit came

out of the blue for many diplomats and observers as Germany has in recent years become China's main ally and business partner in Europe.

Mr. Kinkel, who Sunday regretted China's decision but defended the Bundestag's right to criticise human rights violations in Tibet, sought to downplay the rift, saying China had a "Confucian understanding" of human rights.

He did not elaborate on the nature of this approach to human rights, but said Western states, with their "Western understanding," should try to "feel a little of the necessities" of Asian culture.

"We must try to restore order (to our relations) one way or another," he said.

Bonn would try to maintain its good relations with China, he added, noting that the Chinese Foreign Ministry had expressed similar views to the German ambassador in Beijing.

Pope gets jeers and cheers during German visit

BERLIN (R) — Pope John Paul wrapped up a weekend visit to Germany with jeers of angry protestors and cheers of faithful Roman Catholics still ringing in his ears.

Hundreds of demonstrators from Berlin's robust autonomous scene spit venom at the Pontiff Sunday as he cruised by Pope-mobile down the famed Unter Den Linden Boulevard toward the Brandenburg Gate, symbol of Europe's cold war divide.

He appeared unperturbed by two paint bombs that splattered his car and cries of "get lost" and "go to hell" from whistling protestors, including one naked woman who dashed onto the road before police hauled her away.

Symbolically celebrating the demise of the Eastern European communism he so despised, the Polish Pontiff walked for the first time through the "Gate of Freedom" that was able to reopen when the Berlin Wall came down in 1989.

Hecklers jeered and made obscene gestures as he called for freedom and respect for human rights in Europe and the world.

The Pope started the day by saying mass for some 100,000 people at the Olympic Stadium that Adolf Hitler built for the 1936 games, intending it to be a showcase of Aryan superiority.

"I come from the former East Germany and I never had the chance to see the Pope. It is simply incredible to be here," one young nun gushed.

The Pontiff beatified two anti-Nazi priests who died after being persecuted by the Nazis, but the step again thrust the church's public silence about the holocaust into the limelight.

Pope John Paul dropped parts of two prepared speeches defending the church, but won praise from German Jews by telling them for the first time that too few Catholics dared stand up to Hitler.

The head of world Catholicism also met German Protestant leaders Saturday in Paderborn, where he encouraged them to continue working to bridge the gap between their churches.

But he told them the Vatican could still not agree fully with the Protestants about some teachings of Martin Luther, the rebel German monk who launched the reformation in 1517.



An old Greek woman kisses an icon by the coffin of late former Greek Socialist Premier Andreas Papandreu in Athens' Metropolitan Church Monday as thousands of Greeks gathered to pay their last respect to the Socialist leader (Reuters photo)

Greece mourns death of Papandreu

ATHENS (R) — Thousands of mourners Monday filed past the flag-draped coffin of former Socialist Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, who dominated much of the country's politics until his death.

Mr. Papandreu, who broke the Greek right's long grip on power and infuriated allies with his maverick anti-Western stands, died Sunday at the age of 77 after a heart attack.

Monday's newspapers carried full front-page pictures of the veteran Socialist and headlines such as: "He now lives in our hearts," and "In history's arms."

Senior members of the ruling Socialist Party he founded in 1974 and first brought to power in 1981 stood guard next to his flower-decked casket inside Athens cathedral.

Papandreu will lie in state for three days before being buried in Athens Wednesday.

Men, women and children, some weeping, lined up despite the summer heat to pay their last respects.

His black-clad widow Dimitra Liani wept as she received condolences, obviously shattered.

His former wife Margaret and their four children also stood by the coffin, shaking hands with leading politicians and party supporters.

Papandreu will be buried with full honours and Greece will observe a day of mourning.

"We have been orphaned," Labour Minister Evangelos Yfantiopoulos, a long-time friend of Papandreu's, told reporters.

Loved by his fans and loathed by his enemies, Papandreu led a stormy political and personal life. He was prime minister from 1981 to 1989, and was reelected in 1993 but resigned early this year because of poor health.

His anti-Western rhetoric infuriated Greece's allies and his open extra-marital affair with Liani, then an Olympic Airways hostess half his age, shocked the nation.

For most Greeks he was the one politician who stood up to powerful Western allies. He also showered money on the poor rural areas of Greece.

But his critics blamed him for nearly bankrupting the country and steering Greece into isolation from its Western allies with his Third World connections and friendships with such leaders as Libya's

Muammar Qadhafi.

Friends and rivals across Europe paid tribute to him for his long fight to forge an independent and democratic Greece.

The United States, denounced by Papandreu during his first years in power, called him one of Greece's most influential leaders and a key figure in assuring the triumph of democracy.

"We have lost a part of our existence that guided us and defined us," said Prime Minister Costas Simitis, who took over from Papandreu in January.

Mr. Simitis, 60, who opposed Papandreu's policies inside the party in recent years, called Papandreu "a part of Greece, Greece itself."

The ruling Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) announced it would go ahead with a scheduled congress Thursday, but will now face the task of electing a new party leader Sunday.

The Congress would have elected a vice-president to take on some of Papandreu's duties.

The main candidates for the leadership are Mr. Simitis and Interior Minister Akis Tsobatzopoulos, a trusted Papandreu lieutenant.

Papandreu might have played a decisive role at the congress had he lived. He resigned as prime minister in January after four months in hospital but retained his position as PASOK leader.

Mr. Simitis wants to control and unite PASOK before national elections next year. Public opinion polls had shown him leading the race but Papandreu's death may upset his standing.

Mr. Tsobatzopoulos has said the posts of party president and prime minister should be held by two different people so that a balance is maintained in the divided party.

Turkey expressed sorrow Monday at the death of Papandreu, a leader regarded by many Turks as a hawk during frequent disputes between the two neighbours.

"I learned with deep sorrow the passing away of Mr. Andreas Papandreu, who all throughout his life had been a distinguished personality in the Greek political scene," Turkish Foreign Minister Emre Gonenay said in a short letter to his Greek counterpart, Theodoros Pangalos.

The letter was distributed to journalists.

Pressure builds on White House over FBI files

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House came under pressure Sunday from its democratic allies in Congress to quell the growing furor over its acquisition of more than 400 sensitive FBI background files.

Two key Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee, Paul Simon of Illinois and Patrick Leahy of Vermont, suggested that the White House fire its director of personnel security because of the widening scandal.

Craig Livingstone, a political appointee, was placed on paid administrative leave last week after an FBI report sharply criticised President Bill Clinton's White House for improperly obtaining the sensitive FBI background files, including some on prominent Republicans, in 1993 and 1994.

White House legal counsel Jack Quinn said the decision came at Mr. Livingstone's request and was not a punitive or disciplinary action.

White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta, appearing on CBS' Face the Nation, called for an end to speculation and innuendo while the Justice Department and the special prosecutor looked into the incident. In Washington, he complained, "every mistake becomes a conspiracy, every charge becomes a conviction, every rumour becomes a reality."

But Sen. Simon said the situation demanded action, starting with Mr. Livingstone. "My impression is that they should fire him," Sen. Simon said on Fox TV's News Sunday. "The White House has to be very forthcoming on this. They can't just drag this out."

Sen. Leahy, the ranking Democrat on the panel, also called for swift, tough action from the White House.

"I think, obviously, if you've had somebody even making those lists or requesting them and doing it in a wholesale fashion, not keeping them secured, not having a legitimate reason for it — that person or persons should be fired and should be fired immediately," he said on ABC's This Week With David Brinkley.

Sen. Leahy urged congressional Republicans to include Democrats in the investigation of the incident and not to use their majority status to take control of the probe.

Republican Senator Fred Thompson of Tennessee, who also sits on the panel, urged his fellow Republicans not to rush to judgment. "But based on what the admissions have been, Mr. Livingstone is guilty of gross negligence at a minimum," he added on the ABC programme.

Mr. Quinn said no action would be taken on whether to fire Mr. Livingstone until more facts were known. "The point is that if at the conclusion that is the appropriate course, it will be taken, but as long as I have something to say about it, we will not shoot first and ask questions later," he said on ABC.

Special prosecutor Kenneth Starr Friday won approval to investigate whether criminal laws had been broken in the White House's obtaining of the confidential FBI files. Two congressional committees are also investigating the matter.

The list of names sought by the White House first surfaced as one of 3,000 documents subpoenaed by Republican Representative William Clinger of Pennsylvania, whose House Government Reform and Oversight Committee is investigating the firings of the White House Travel Office staff.

The White House has turned over 1,000 documents to the committee, but asserted executive privilege on the other 2,000, setting the stage for a possible constitutional confrontation Thursday when Mr. Clinger has promised to seek a contempt citation.

Mr. Clinger said the Clinton White House has "designated scapegoats" in Mr. Livingstone and Anthony Marceca, a U.S. army investigator who worked at the White House from August 1993 through February 1994. "These were not apolitical civil servants," he said on NBC Television's Meet the Press programme.

Hashimoto pays tribute to Kim's drinking ability

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto Monday paid tribute to the drinking ability of South Korean President Kim Young Sam after their weekend summit.

Mr. Kim made a real impact, Mr. Hashimoto, who is known to enjoy his drink, was not so much measuring the political fallout of their talks as nursing the hangover. "Really, he is strong," said Mr. Hashimoto, who said the effect of the alcohol was still casting a shadow the next morning.

Mr. Hashimoto said the private talks over drinks had been one of the highlights of the weekend visit to Cheju Island when Mr. Hashimoto made a high profile apology for Japan's war actions.

The prime minister was quoted by Jiji Press as telling reporters: "We agreed to have talks over drinks just between us, which was not previously scheduled, and we were able to do so." However, he refused to elaborate on what they had discussed. "I forgot," he told reporters.

When asked if it was because of the drinks, Mr. Hashimoto added: "I guess that would be the best reason to put. Why should I tell others what we discussed?"

No-name residents

of French village

at peace at last

CINTHEAUX, France

(AFP) — Ending a long-running identity crisis, the 172 people of this hamlet in Normandy celebrated a baptism of sorts Sunday

after agreeing in a referendum to call themselves Cintheauxiens. While Paris has Parisians and Lyon has Lyonnais, Cintheaux had no adjective to call its own.

So Mayor Michel Le Baron, 61 and as perplexed as the rest of this village in the Calvados region, came up with some candidates and called a vote in January.

"The idea came from five young women on the town council, which has 11 members," he said. "They wanted their identity, and as for me, it has been bugging me the 31 years I have been in office. I looked in the departmental archives and even went to Paris, but in vain, and we all had a bit of a complex about not having a name."

The ballot had 10 candidates, some of them reaching far back in history, such as Santellien, reflecting the hamlet's Roman-era name of Sanctals. Mayor Le Baron said everyone in the village could vote and there were even five write-in suggestions.

In the end, it came down to two names when the 77 ballots cast were tallied on June 7. Cintheaux got 20, but was nipped out by Cintheauxiens with 21. The winner was kept secret until Sunday so it could be announced with much fanfare at the village's yearly festival.

French MP acts on dog mess hazard

PARIS (R) — The tourist's nightmare of dodging 500,000 tonnes of dog excrement dumped annually on the streets of Paris was tackled by a French parliamentarian.

Conservative MP Pierre Pascalon tabled a bill in the National Assembly proposing that dog toilets should be installed on French city streets and that dog owners should be taxed according to the weight of their animals.

He said 21 per cent of France's 7.8 million dogs live in apartment blocks and that the toilets, to be called "canisettes," should be in every town of over 500 inhabitants. Tourists frequently complain that dog excrement is a major problem in visiting the otherwise beautiful city of Paris.

where statistics show that two million inhabitants own 300,000 dogs. Dozens of motorbikes equipped with vacuum cleaners are used to clean the streets in an operation which costs the city \$4.4 million a year.

Jordan Times

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Hasty Israeli reaction

TO ALMOST all those who followed the results of the Arab summit in Cairo on Saturday and Sunday, the resolutions resonated with moderation and reflected a determination to proceed with Arab-Israeli negotiations according to the principles which first brought the antagonists together at Madrid. But by the new Israeli government's standards, the resolutions made unilateral demands and attached conditions that could pose a threat to the peace process.

Since the outcome of the process depends ultimately on Israeli intentions, we find ourselves unfortunately not optimistic about the Israeli reaction. All the Arab summit did was reconfirm that peace in the Middle East should be comprehensive, should be reached on the basis of U.N. resolutions and the land for peace formula and should guarantee the rights and security of all parties. In case Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has forgotten, these are the principles which were embodied in the Madrid invitations and the ones which a Likud-led Israeli government accepted when it agreed to engage the Arabs in peace talks.

Mr. Netanyahu was wrong to say that his government would not heed what he termed as "unilateral demands, pre-conditions and threats" made by the summit. To start with his characterisation of what happened was faulty, belittling and not conducive to a comforting political environment under which the peace process can go forward. We just hope that Mr. Netanyahu does not want to use the resolutions as an excuse for not living up to Israel's commitments to the principle of land for peace and to refrain from withdrawing from the occupied Arab lands.

If indeed, the new Israeli premier wants the Arabs to normalise ties with his state, to accept Israel as a partner in the region and to give up all their rights without him being ready to do what is necessary for peace, his recipe will not take us far. The mentality that has kept the region in the abyss of conflict and violence for decades has to be changed even by an Israeli right-wing government.

The Arabs are reaching out to Israel with a formula that can save the region renewed turbulence and can ensure the fulfilment of both the security and rights of Arabs and Israelis alike. Rightly the summit has warned that unless just and comprehensive peace on the basis of the guidelines of the Madrid formula is not achieved, all that has been achieved in five years of negotiations could be lost. This is not a threat. It is a statement about reality, the reality which Mr. Netanyahu should acknowledge and accept if the Middle East is to enter the new millennium without the shadow of conflict and war hanging over its future.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i daily praised plans under way by the Ministry of Transport for constructing an ambitious railway system in Jordan. The plans, which were recently announced by the minister of transport, reflect Jordan's interaction with the transportation developments in the world which is now giving more and more attention to railway as means of resolving traffic problems, said Ibrahim Al Samman. Among the European nations that are giving increasing attention to railway transportation are Sweden and Germany which announced plans for huge investments in this kind of transportation, far exceeding those made for roads for economic and environmental reasons, noted the writer. He said Jordan is in bad need of railway transport system because trains are more efficient, use far less energy than vehicles, save the Kingdom a great deal of expensive fuel and, most importantly, cause far less pollution to the environment. The writer said that not only do the railways acquire limited space on the ground, they can transport far greater numbers of passengers in shorter hours, save the country fortunes by minimising accidents, curtailing congestion on the roads and saving funds that used to be allocated for opening tunnels and building bridges for roads.

A WRITER for Al Dustour Monday described the Cairo Arab summit as one that succeeded in paving the ground for an all Arab countries to reconcile despite the absence of Iraq. The Arab meeting in Cairo has also succeeded in rallying Arab backing for Syria, Lebanon and Palestine, which are struggling to regain their lost territories, and in projecting Egypt once again as the leading Arab state, according to Taher Adwan. The final communiqué, as read out by President Mubarak, summed up the Arab countries' position, reflected the feelings and aspirations of the majority of the Arab people and demonstrated the Arab countries' unity in the face of the common Israeli challenge, said the writer. The convening of the summit proved two other things: that the previous claims that the Arab are too widely separated to hold a meeting at this high level was unjustified and that the Arabs can and must end their total subjugation to the United States and its dictates, continued the writer. He said that the Arab summit has succeeded in restoring the psychological balance between the Arab Nation and Israel, and paved the ground for future summits.

Israeli media may be superficial but it has contributed to regional peace

By Hanoch Marmari

THE ROLE of the media in Israel's political and social life can hardly be exaggerated. Israelis are addicted to journalism, being avid consumers of both print and electronic media.

The print media in Israel is independent and commercial. Three dynamic daily newspapers are published, with a combined distribution of some half a million copies on weekdays and close to a million on weekends. They compete for a market of more than two million readers.

The state retains control over the allocation of broadcast channels and franchises, but the two broadcasting authorities are not operated directly by the government, and their work is not dependent on the government in any direct way.

The Israel Broadcasting Authority is a public authority that levies licence fees. The Second Channel Authority grants broadcast licences to commercial companies.

There is also a cable television network, to which three-quarters of a million households are hooked up. This translates into about three million individuals, or more than two-thirds of the population. Cable television provides 45 varied stations, including several that feature locally-packaged programming, as well as direct satellite broadcasts from all over the world — Russia, America, Europe, Turkey, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Saudi Arabia.

Israel's daily newspapers do not merely deliver vigorous news coverage. The press in Israel is opinionated, inquisitive, outspoken and always vibrant and controversial. The media provides a direct reflection of

the feelings and sensibilities of the public. In fact, it is frequently the media that elicits these feelings from the public.

Israel's society comprises distinct demographic groups — religious and secular, Arabs and Jews, Westerners and Orientals, city-dwellers and provincials, intellectuals and ordinary people. In spite of these various divisions, the same print and electronic media manages to serve and reflect the opinion of each and every one of these sectors.

I believe that this is the basis of the common Israeli experience. I am suggesting that newspaper readers and television viewers in Israel, whoever they are and however they might identify themselves, absorb the same package of information. The news items to which they are exposed create a common foundation of experiences, a collective reservoir of emotions, such as pride, frustration, anxiety and grief. The media not only helps mould the social contract that underpins Israeli society, it is also a primary force in determining the public's state of mind and in shaping public opinion.

It was this power and influence, possessed by the media, that enabled the outgoing government to make such rapid progress in its relations with an organisation previously regarded as a mortal enemy. Within a short period of time, this same organisation became, in the media and through the media, a legitimate and desirable partner for peace-making.

However, we should bear in mind that the media's strengths are not a one-way street. The same media that catalysed a transformation in the public mind regarding

the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was also, more recently, the catalyst of a derailment of the peace policy. Collective public anxiety in the face of terrorist attacks brought about the closure of the borders between Israel and the Palestinian territories. The sense of public frustration in the face of the Hizbollah's Katyusha attacks resulted in a military response in Lebanon, and the ensuing Cana disaster.

Due to Israel's relatively small size, there are only three daily newspapers currently distributed nationwide. Other daily newspapers cater to the needs of

news channels, as a largely homogeneous group: knowledgeable, well-informed, authoritative, involved, secular, moderate — influenced by the media style of America and, to a certain degree, of Europe.

The media in Israel has a short span of attention and is superficial, quick to raise issues to the public agenda — and just as quick to abandon them. This hyper-activity creates cultural icons and role-models for identification and replaces them frequently. The media is highly ethnocentric — as we are continually fussing over ourselves and over our own daily troubles.

"The media in Israel has a short span of attention and is superficial, quick to raise issues to the public agenda — and just as quick to abandon them... At the same time, the media has been a pillar of critically important support for every government that has advanced the peace process..."

individual sectors — a business daily newspaper in Arabic, in English and in Russian, and newspapers for the religious community.

The three Hebrew dailies — "Ma'ariv", "Yedioth Aharonot" and "Ha'aretz" — are published in Tel Aviv. All are written in basically the same journalistic language. "Ha'aretz" appeals to an elite readership, the majority of whom are subscribers, and is thus reserved, cool-headed, and more textual. However, in general, one can regard the three newspapers, as well as the radio and television

media, as an important role in preserving Israel's democratic values and advocating their further refinement. In recent years, the media has been involved in encouraging the peace process. I do not think I would be wrong in saying that the media has been a pillar of critically important support for every government that has advanced the peace process and has constantly spurred ministerial foot-draggers. At the same time, the media has played an important part in the restraint and containment of over-adventurous military

initiatives, no matter which government was in power.

"Ha'aretz", which I represent, is an independent privately-owned daily newspaper that has been published since 1919. For the last 57 years it has been in the hands of the Schocken family. While "Ha'aretz" has high regard for news reporting and investigative journalism, the expression of opinions on all areas of our life holds equal value. We seek to influence the entire public, and especially those people engaged in making policy, creating and shaping the Israeli reality.

"Ha'aretz" is proud of the long list of its reporters and columnists whose opinions are closely listened to by those who occupy the boardrooms and corridors of power.

"Ha'aretz" cherishes the values of mature democracy, including the principles of human and civil rights — this has been the primary basis of its opposition to the occupation — separation of synagogue and state; economic liberalism; and social justice. For years, "Ha'aretz" has been following in intense detail the political processes along the road to peace.

Our consistent overall policy, whose roots date back to the summer of 1967, has been that concessions are required in order to achieve peace. These concessions include an agreed withdrawal from Lebanon, withdrawal from the Golan in exchange for full peace and adequate security arrangements, and the establishment of a Palestinian state within agreed borders.

"Ha'aretz" fully appreciates the importance of covering global events. Prime space and effort are allocated to international coverage. One of our most important

goals is to provide adequate coverage of the Arab World, the Palestinians, the neighbouring countries, the wider Middle East and the Maghreb. To that end, we maintain a large staff of journalists and commentators whom we encourage to express themselves in-depth and in detail.

To date, we have not been successful in our efforts to maintain a permanent correspondent in any of our neighbouring countries. At times, even short-term assignments by journalists to neighbouring capitals have encountered difficulties. However, we hope that the situation will soon be such that we will be able to maintain permanent bureaus in the important capitals of the Arab World, and perhaps to offer assistance to Arab correspondents serving in Tel Aviv.

If full peace in the Middle East is indeed the objective, Israeli and Arab journalists must find a way to support that peace, each according to his own ability, in his own language and within his own means. They must do their best to reach out to the hearts and minds of their readers, so that everybody can embrace peace as between mutually respected neighbours.

Israeli and Arab journalists must find ways to influence the navigators of policy to steer a true course towards the noblest of goals, peace.

The writer is editor-in-chief of the Tel Aviv-based Israeli daily Ha'aretz. The above article is based on an address he delivered at a conference for Arab and Israeli journalists held in the Hague in mid-June.

Elections at the U.N. — a case of American manipulation

By G. H. Jansen

THE IRON grip that pro-Israeli Zionist groups and individuals in the U.S. have on American foreign policy, especially on the Middle East, is exposed with brutal clarity through Washington's opposition to a second term for Boutros Ghali as U.N. secretary general.

The openness of that opposition is surprising because it is six months ahead of the election of the secretary general which is usually shrouded in confidentiality if not secrecy. This indicates that the U.S. wants to make its wishes clearly known without any slip between cup and lip.

The shortness of public memory being what it is, most people probably do not remember the Cana massacre when, on April 18, 1996, in the course of the Israeli onslaught on Hizbollah guerrillas in Lebanon, Israeli gunners

shelled a U.N. encampment where hundreds of civilian were taking refuge, killing 102 of them.

Because of worldwide condemnation, the U.N. under Boutros Ghali set up a commission of inquiry of which the U.S. and Israel did not approve because, the facts being clear, it was anticipated that the committee's findings would be condemnatory of Israel. So, when after the lapse of a few weeks it was announced that the commission's report was ready, tendentious leaks from U.S. sources at U.N. headquarters claimed that the report would probably not be published at all or published only after being toned down so that it would not displease the U.S. on behalf of its friend and ally, Israel.

The mere possibility of such censorship caused such a clamour that Boutros Ghali, jealous of the reputation for independence of the world body, was prompted into

saying that the report would be published entirely, without any watering down.

At that time, press reports from the U.N. said that because of the position Boutros Ghali had taken over the report he was running the risk of displeasing the U.S. and the loss of U.S. support for his election to a second term. Those fears are now justified by the unprecedented manner in which Washington has openly opposed his reelection, breaking the usual rule of silence and discretion on the secretary-general's election. And this happened quite soon after Cana, so it is fair to surmise "post ergo propter hoc", "after it and so because of it."

The U.S., of course, cannot admit that it is doing this at the behest of Israel. But the reasons given for the very early and open U.S. opposition are very unconvincing.

Thus, U.S. spokesmen claim Boutros Ghali has not

reformed the U.N. secretariat or pruned its budget. Yet a listing of the reforms that have actually been carried out under his watch is quite impressive, as even his critics admit. Nor does it lie in the mouth of the Americans to talk of financial savings when it owes the U.N. more than a billion dollars in back dues, because of which, according to the rules, the U.S. should have been stripped of its voting rights.

One of the many things that Boutros Ghali has said and done to anger and irritate the U.S. is that he frequently and publicly reminds Washington that it is a debtor state.

Another particularly hypocritical U.S. reason for opposing Boutros Ghali is what Americans have called his lack of leadership. But they blame him for bungling U.N. efforts in Bosnia and Somalia, for which the U.S. itself was largely responsible. Because the U.N. contributed the largest number

of troops to the U.N. force in Somalia, it took over the direction of the U.N. action and handed this over to Ambassador Robert Oakley. This, mistakenly, was reduced to a personal vendetta against General Mohammad Aided, the leading Somalia warrior.

In Bosnia, on the other hand, the U.N. failed because, among other reasons, the U.S. refused to send in its troops — everything else but no American "boys" because they might come home in body bags. (The "body bag syndrome" now dominates U.S. military planning).

It is ironic that when Boutros Ghali was elected, with the support of the U.S., it was said that support was inevitable because he was known to be "America's man." For many years in Cairo he had been associated with the Congress for Cultural Freedom which, it was later revealed, had been a "front" for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

The candidate the U.S. then opposed was Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan because Washington feared he would be too independent and too Third World.

But, despite that beginning, Boutros Ghali, as has happened to others in leadership positions, has grown with and into the job so he often refused to follow American dictates — as with the Cana report.

One of his predecessors, Dag Hammarskjöld, was also very independent minded, but he was a Swede and Swedes are notoriously neutral and independent — a character trait not to be expected from an Arab, and especially not an Egyptian.

A further example of Boutros Ghali's "boldness" is that, even after the U.S. had declared its opposition to him, he stated his continuing intention to stand for a second term. And if he does that to the end, it would be a most welcome example of courage — most welcome to a great many people at U.N. except the U.S. and Israel.

U.S. under new pressure on Pakistan missile report

By Carol Giacomo Reuter

WASHINGTON — A reported U.S. finding that Pakistan now has operational nuclear-capable Chinese-made missiles could hardly come at a worse time for Washington.

It raises the pressure to impose arms-related sanctions on Beijing even as the Clinton administration faces a possible Sino-American trade war and a fight with Congress over renewing China's most favoured nation trade status.

The Pakistan missile report is contained in a new intelligence finding confirmed by U.S. sources. It is disputed by some influential senior policymakers, but it adds to a debate over whether the administration places more value on trade than on halting the spread of destabilising weapons.

"The administration is willing to go to the mat with the Chinese over Mickey Mouse and Windows," said arms expert Gary Milhollin, referring to the row over copyright infringement on videos and computer programmes that could lead to U.S. sanctions on China if the dispute is not settled by Monday.

"But the administration is not willing to go to the mat over the spread of the bomb," he said in an interview.

The controversy over China's sale of M-11 tactical missiles to Pakistan has been raging on and off for at least the last five years.

But it reignited this week with the reports that U.S. intelligence agencies have concluded with "high confidence" that Pakistan has obtained the missiles.

U.S. sources said the finding concludes Pakistan

probably has finished developing nuclear warheads for these missiles and raises the possibility that while they are not deployed, Islamabad may now have the capability to fire the missiles.

In Islamabad, a Pakistan foreign ministry spokesman said reports of the alleged deal were baseless and an attempt to harm relations between Washington and Islamabad.

China also rejected the reports as "totally groundless" with foreign ministry spokesman Shen Guofang telling reporters Thursday: "China did not and will not export such missiles to Pakistan or export similar missiles to any other country."

However, China's ambassador to Washington said in a 1991 speech here that Beijing had supplied Pakistan with "a tiny number of short-range tactical

missiles."

The United States says the missile it calls the M-11 has a range of 300 km and hence violates the missile technology control regime that aims to control the spread of missiles to countries like Pakistan. China has held that the missile does not violate the MTCR guidelines.

U.S. officials previously judged that China transferred M-11 missile components to Pakistan, but have been divided for some time on whether the parts had been assembled into whole systems or whether whole systems had been shipped.

The new finding reaffirms the intelligence agencies' view that complete Chinese-made M-11 missiles are in Pakistan.

If the administration accepts this view, it could trigger sanctions against both Islamabad and Beijing

under U.S. law.

State Department and other U.S. officials insist the intelligence report is not based on new information but uses existing data in a new assessment of military capabilities.

They say it leaves open the question of whether there is proof completed missiles are in Pakistan. "There is no smoking gun," several officials said, using the same phrase.

Washington in 1991 and again in 1993 imposed sanctions on China for missile cooperation with Pakistan but then lifted them when Beijing made promises to abide by the MTCR.

The latest commitments were made to Secretary of State Warren Christopher in 1994 and U.S. officials say they believe China has honoured that pledge since then. Senior officials, eager to

get shaky U.S.-China ties back on track, are approaching the issue with great caution. They insist they will impose sanctions if warranted but cannot act without concrete proof because the ramifications are profound.

Mr. Christopher was similarly cautious on the issue of China's sale of nuclear-related ring magnets to Pakistan. He recently rejected imposing sanctions on Beijing for that deal on grounds senior Chinese officials were unaware of it.

This has fuelled critics like Milhollin who say the United States, eager to pursue trade with China, is ignoring Beijing's efforts to escape sanctions by transferring arms technology piece by piece instead of whole systems.

Jerusalem's striking architecture — the enduring beauty of buildings and communities alike

al but
peace

Jerusalem Architecture

By David Kroyanker
Tauris Parke Books, London, 1991, 210 pp, colour photos, drawings and plans.
JD 31, available in Amman from Philadelphia Book Gallery.

I rarely buy or read large, coffee-table-style books; but when asked to, I accepted to read and review this book, due to the combination of the attraction of the subject and the obviously fine quality of the book.

I was intrigued to see if the author could capture the complexity of ancient and modern Jerusalem in a manner that was both politically/culturally fair and also accurate in terms of Jerusalem's phenomenal urban fabric. My conclusion is a broad yes to both questions, with the minor complaint that the text tends to define the starting point of Jerusalem as its adoption as a Jewish capital some three thousand years ago.

I say this is a minor point because I do not think this book is an occasion to engage in yet another historical debate about Jewish, Christian and Muslim roots in the holy city, which is holy to all three religions. Not only is the debate about Jerusalem's identity as an Arab or Jewish city impossible to resolve; it is also probably meaningless. For as this book's splendid photographs and drawings indicate, Jerusalem's urban fabric is so tightly interwoven with strands of Muslim, Christian and Jewish architectural identity that it becomes not only impossible to assign sole ownership to the city, but probably also ridiculous even to try.

The fact that Arabs, or Israelis, or Christians, Muslims or Jews, compete to claim sole or dominant possession of the city merely confirms the reality that it belongs to them all, that exclusive political sovereignty, religious significance or even cultural assertion are merely the exaggerated contemporary expressions of tormented and traumatised minds. A reading of the book's text and an appreciation of its photographs and line drawings makes you realise once again why Jerusalem occupies such a central place in the politics of the Arab-Israeli conflict and in the imagination of the 2.5 billion people — about half the world's population — who are Muslims, Christians or Jews.

The most striking thing about Jerusalem to me is not its spirituality, but the combination of a long tradition of ordinary people's neighbourhoods and monumental public architecture that make its urbanism so beautifully and so faithfully representative of the last several thousand years of human civilisation. The book reminds us that the old city, the heart of the more extensive modern metropolis, retains the basic infrastructural plan of a Roman-Byzantine town; it is divided into four quarters by two intersecting linear main streets.

We are told: "The four sections created by the geometry of the main streets form the basis for the ethnic-religious quarters — Jewish, Muslim, Christian and Armenian — that comprise the Old City in its present state. It is not a 'surgical' division, for there is some ethnic-religious spillover between the sections."

This "spillover" is not only ethnic or religious in a horizontal sense, across

space. It is also a spillover vertically over time, spanning generations and civilisations. The special attraction of Jerusalem is not merely that it is holy to several religions, and has been for many centuries, but rather that it incorporates within its living urban fabric the physical record of a rare and particular combination of pluralistic spirituality, demography, architecture and culture, including local and imported tradi-

tions. The book captures this rich diversity of human sensibility and architectural design by separating the many different strands into their individual components, on the basis of time periods, religions and even political control (there is a captivating chapter about architecture styles during the period of the British mandate). Chapter three, succinctly reviewing the architectural and urban development of the old city from 1000 BC through the Ottoman Empire, neatly tracks how each succeeding civilisation built its own grandiose public buildings — which, then and today, were political statements as well as utilitarian facilities.

The story starts with the early Jewish centuries when King David made the city his capital, and then in turn treats the Herodian, Roman, Byzantine, early Muslim, Crusader, Ayyubid, Mamluk and Ottoman periods, ending with powerful sections on European Christian buildings and the Muslim quarter (which has twice as many residents as all the other Old City neighbourhoods combined, the book

rightly reminds us). The old houses in the Muslim quarter, we are told, "reflect the gradual evolution of Arab residential construction, from the rural village home, some elements of which continue from Biblical times, to concrete urban structures."

The book then continues with chapters that treat the modern, extra-mural city of Jerusalem, which is defined by a combination of Arab, Jewish and European Chris-

tian building, what the author calls "architecture with ethnic identity". Like the people who inhabit it, the city's architecture comprises a variety of styles and traditions that have usually coexisted in harmony while retaining their distinctive character. This second section of the book provides informative and sensitive treatments of Jewish and Arab building in the period 1860-1918, alongside European Christian building that was in part a "power struggle" for imperial domination of the holy city.

The descriptions of German, French, British, Russian and Orthodox construction projects are as satisfying architecturally as they are historically, during a period when "the European powers and their Christian constituents vied for dominance in the emerging New Jerusalem."

The author notes that unlike Jewish and Arab architecture that reflected values of family intimacy, privacy, community or clustered tribalism, "European Christian construction, riding the high tide of imperialism, produced large compounds as well as monumental structures... Germans, French, British, Russians — all sought to gain hegemony in the Holy Land for strategic, religious or colonial purposes," which was achieved in part

by offering religious and associated social services (schools, hospitals, lodging houses) to those who lived in the city or flocked to it as pilgrims.

The book concludes with very informative, beautifully illustrated sections on modern Jewish and Arab architecture, including Jewish garden neighbourhoods and the homes of affluent Arab residents. The last chapter on modern building reminds us that this is not only a book about history, but rather that the story of Jerusalem, its architecture, people and politics, continues unabated.

The combination of high quality, often full-page photographs and detailed line drawings, in which people and buildings figure almost equally, allows the reader to imagine what life was like in the city during most historical periods. This is a function of several attributes that make the city so endearing to residents and visitors alike — including the monumental nature of the architecture and its good state of preservation, the tendency for self-enclosed neighbourhoods and compounds to preserve the sentiments of a certain time and place, and the fact that people and buildings interact today as they have done in Jerusalem for thousands of years.

One of the most endearing aspects of this book is the many small photographs or drawings of architectural details, alongside the full-page panoramas or monumental structures. The large photos capture the time period, but the small details capture the identity of the people and their values. Many are religious — such as Koranic inscribed verses in stone on fountains, mosques and other structures, assorted styles of metal decorative "alams" atop minarets and bearing the form of the crescent, the Star of David on the doors of 19th Century Jewish homes, the bas-

relief on the tower of the YMCA building depicting a six-winged seraph from the Vision of Isaiah (6:2-3) — and many others are also political or cultural, such as the stone medallions with geometric and floral designs on the Old City ramparts, the emblem of the Imperial Russian Orthodox Palestine Society on the facade of most Russian buildings at the end of the 19th Century, or the stylised roses that decorated iron doors of 19th Century Jewish, Muslim and Christian families.

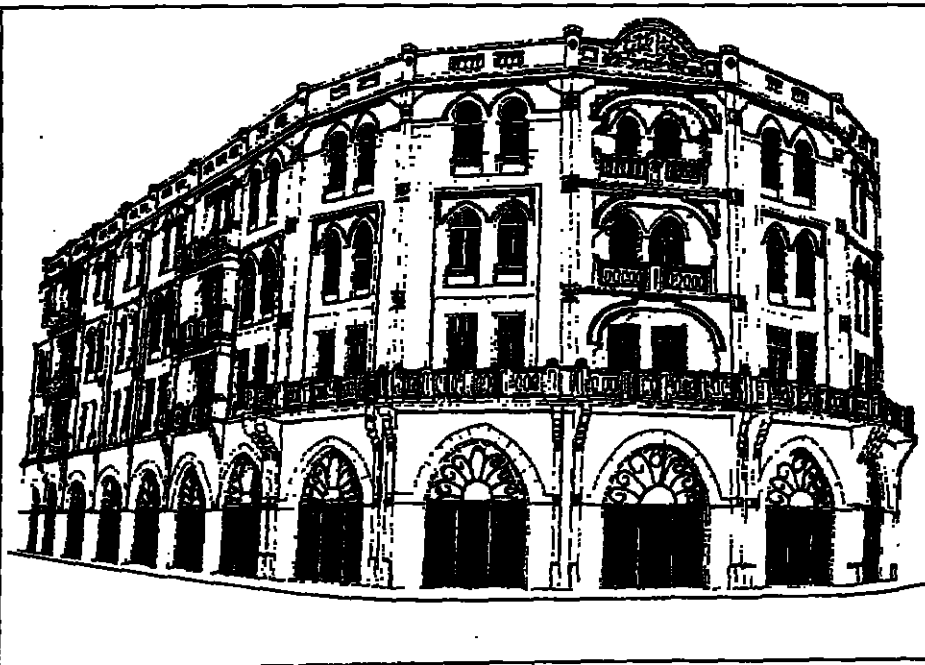
I could not help but interpret the book's emphatic portrayal of Jerusalem's architectural diversity as a political statement — to the effect that the city's magic and unique esteem in the eyes of its believers reflect precisely its multi-cultural, multi-religious legacy, its crowded, contiguous mesh of faiths and cultures. It is often difficult to separate the different ethnic strands of the city when one is there in person, and perhaps one should not try to do so. The exercise is satisfying, though, as undertaken in this book; it allows the reader to appreciate each distinct historical period and its building styles, while also enjoying the impact of the integrated urban complex as one unit that derives its dynamism from the cumulative energy and identity of its component ethnicities, cultures and religions.

The message of multiculturalism is an appropriate one to hear and to reflect upon today, as we start to address the political question of Jerusalem's future within the wider context of attempts to achieve Arab-Israeli peace. The message is not that of the book's author, publisher or reviewer, but of the stones, the structures and the city fabric themselves. When the city of Jerusalem — the idea of multiple faiths and cultures sharing a sacred

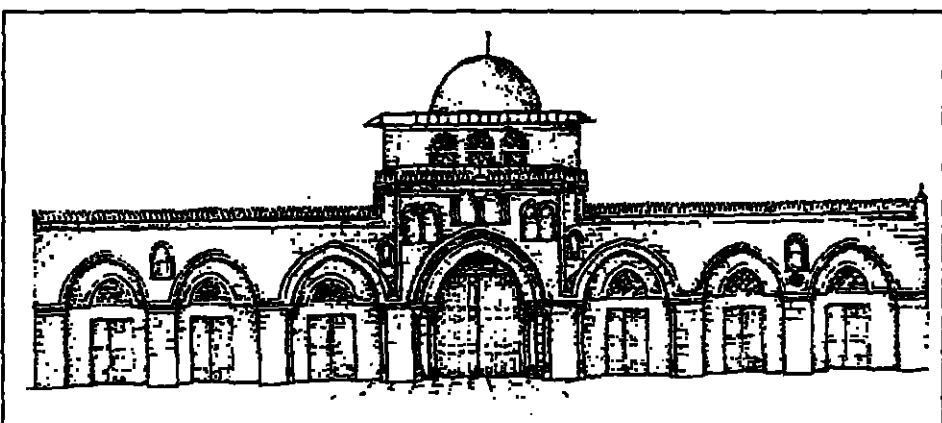
landscape — is allowed to speak for itself, without the interference or interpretation of half-crazed contemporary politicians, it generally speaks in a language of cultural coexistence and respect, using a vocabulary that relies for its coherence on the cumulative creativity of previous civilisations and their builders of homes and houses of worship. Jerusalem is and should remain a symbol of both conflict and coexistence among its constituent communities, a reminder that tolerant pluralism has long defined the peoples and religions of the Middle East in between brief, violent spells of predatory conquest and colonial intolerance.

Rami G. Khouri

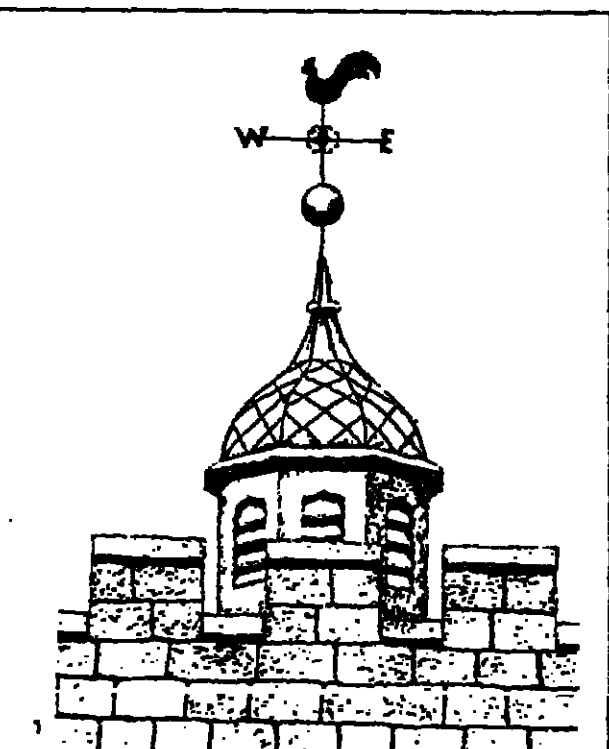
This is a very beautiful, enriching, satisfying book, as measured both in terms of its architectural aesthetics and the beauty of the people who made and used its buildings. If we are ever to construct an edifice of justice, peace and cooperation in Jerusalem and the entire Middle East, it will have to reflect a demographic and cultural architecture in which the Christian, Muslim and Jewish communities coexist with the same kind of integrated serenity and durability that we witness and enjoy in the built architecture of Jerusalem.



The eclectic style of the former Palace Hotel, built in 1929



The main facade of Al Aqsa Mosque, dating from the Ayyubid period. The seven arches of the front portico reflect the interior plan: a basilica with a central nave and three aisles on either side



Oxford in Jerusalem: St. George's College and Cathedral, built in 1895-1912, emulate the English collegiate Gothic style of the 14th and 15th centuries

Karadzic presence looms over Bosnia elections

SARAJEVO (AFP) — NATO's top commander in Bosnia Monday slammed Radovan Karadzic's hardline Serb regime as officials again ruled out the indicted war crimes suspect from standing in Bosnia's first post-war elections.

Flavio Conti, interim head of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), is expected to announce the go-ahead and set

date for the elections after a meeting in Vienna Tuesday with the OSCE permanent council.

Mr. Karadzic's continued presence in leadership of the Serb regime — in power in one half of Bosnia — is seen as damaging chances of a free and fair election.

Speaking in the Serb capital Pale on Monday, the head of the NATO-led peace force in Bosnia, U.S. Admiral Leighton Smith, warned a leading Serb hardliner he was not satisfied the treatment of Bosnian Muslims by the Serbs.

Adm. Smith told Serb parliamentary Speaker Momcilo Krajisnik of his "dissatisfaction" with the way the Muslim population is being treated in several key Serb towns.

In Sarajevo, a spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said Monday at least 30 Muslims were evicted from their homes in Serb-controlled Banja Luka over the weekend in the biggest such wave of "ethnic cleansing" since the Dayton accord was signed last December.

"We've had at least 30 desperate people coming to our office in Banja Luka this morning saying they have been evicted by the Serb refugees", UNHCR spokesman Kris Janowski said.

Mr. Conti reiterated Sunday that he was concerned about whether sufficient "conditions for free and democratic elections" were in place.

Bosnian Prime Minister Hasan Muratovic told Mr. Conti Sunday that Bosnia would accept the OSCE decision on whether the polls can go ahead.

Some 49 political parties and 33 independent candidates have entered for the elections — to a three-member presidency, parliaments for the Muslim-Croat and Serb-run entities that make up post-war Bosnia, and a series of lower-level authorities.

Among these are the ruling Democratic Action Party (SDA) of President Alija Izetbegovic, the Croatian Democratic Union (CDU) in the Croat-controlled areas of Bosnia, and the Serb Democratic Party (SDS) in Serb-controlled areas.

Competing with the three main ethnically-based parties are a series of smaller groupings including several multi-ethnic parties, including the Union of Bosnian Social Democrats (UBSD) and the Party for

Bosnia-Herzegovina (SBiH) of former Premier Haris Silajdzic.

Among the conditions Mr. Conti must establish are whether there is sufficient freedom of movement to allow refugees and displaced people to vote, freedom of expression and association, and independence of the press, all across Bosnia, to permit the holding of free and fair elections.

The OSCE's critics have argued that these conditions do not exist — particularly in the Bosnian Serb entity which is still ruled by Mr. Karadzic despite his indictment by the U.N. on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity.

Mr. Karadzic has been ruled out however as a candidate in the poll. An adviser to top civilian envoy Carl Bildt, told a press briefing here Monday: "It is the policy of the high representative (Bildt) not to accept as legitimate leaders those indicted for war crimes."

Mr. Assad started the process of reconciliation with both King Hussein and Mr. Arafat, whom he had criticised for signing separate peace accords with Israel. And Mr. Arafat met with Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi despite their row over Libya's expulsion of Palestinians.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi said the summit

Arabs hail Cairo summit

(Continued from page 1)

was "an important step forward" as it showed the Arab World had abandoned its "pseudo-optimism" towards Israel.

Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, whose country has tried to play a moderating role in the Middle East peace process, said the aftermath of the summit was not "optimistic situation."

Kuwait welcomed a call by

the summit that Iraq commit itself to refrain being aggressive towards its neighbours and implement Gulf war-related U.N. Security Council resolutions.

The cabinet said in a statement it was content with the position taken by Arab leaders on Kuwait's former occupier at the summit.

Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah "hailed the summit's firm position that demanded that

the Iraqi regime not apply aggressive policies against its Arab neighbours," the statement carried by state-run Kuwait News Agency reported.

On Middle East peace, the cabinet welcomed what it called the summit's revival of Arab joint action on the basis of respect, sovereignty, regional security and non-interference in internal affairs.

Greek succession battle is on

(Continued from page 1)

reforms. If Mr. Tsahatzopoulos wins, PASOK will begin an experiment in power sharing to try to keep the two main factions happy and united.

"If Mr. Simitis wins 51 per cent of the delegates, then the remaining 49 per cent will be against him," Mr. Tsahatzopoulos said in a recent interview.

"There is no single man in PASOK who can play the role of Andreas Papandreu as both premier and party

leader," he added. Mr. Simitis describes himself as a reformer but has moved slowly in initiating any change since replacing Mr. Papandreu in January.

He took over as premier after Mr. Papandreu stepped down in poor health, beating Mr. Tsahatzopoulos in a close vote by PASOK's parliamentary group.

Mr. Simitis' government has played to mixed reviews, weathering a crisis with Turkey in January well and

working for better ties with European Union partners.

But some of his hand-picked ministers have been criticised, such as outspoken Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos — who Mr. Tsahatzopoulos describes as "dangerous" — and Vasso Papandreu, who upset foreign investors with her changes in agreed projects.

Mr. Tsahatzopoulos has no experience in foreign affairs. He has been an uninspiring but hard-working minister

with many portfolios. But his main handicap against Mr. Simitis may be his media image as a man who was Mr. Papandreu's shadow and cannot act on his own.

"We will miss Papandreu," PASOK delegate Costas Hatzis said. "He was a man with a vision who inspired respect. Now PASOK is up for grabs for hungry and uninspiring lieutenants."

report

shaky U.S.-China track, are approaching the issue with great caution. They insist they want to see sanctions if we cannot act with more proof because of the lack of information. Christopher was cautious on the issue of the sale of nuclear weapons. He recently imposed sanctions on China for its role in the Beijing Olympics, but he was not satisfied the treatment of Bosnian Muslims by the Serbs.

Israeli shekel surges after interest rate rise

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli shekel rose sharply against the dollar and a basket of foreign currencies on Monday after the Central Bank of Israel raised its key lending rate for July by 1.5 percentage points to 17 per cent, dealers said.

"The market is very nervous. We were all surprised by the central bank's move. The market had been expecting a rise of no more than 1.0 per cent," said Guy Levi at Bank Leumi.

"The shekel is expected to continue to rise in the next few days as the business sector will return to taking foreign currency linked loans," Mr. Levi said.

The representative rate for the dollar was 3.2310 shekels against 3.2660 shekels on Friday. The basket, composed of the dollar, m. k. sterling, French franc and yen, closed at 3.6038

shekels against 3.6476 on Friday.

On the crosses the shekel traded against the yen at 2.9663 shekels per 100 yen from 3.0058 on Friday, and against the mark at 2.1083 shekels per mark against 2.1406 on Friday.

In late afternoon the dollar was trading at 3.2340 shekels.

After the central bank's decision on Monday, dealers had forecast an increase because of rising inflation in recent months, but they expected a more moderate 0.5 to 1.0 percentage point rise.

It was the fourth time the central bank has raised its interest rates since the beginning of the year and the latest increase brings the central bank's key lending rate, which it charges to commercial banks at daily

and weekly monetary tenders, to an annualised 17.0 per cent.

Inflation has been running at an annual 15 per cent, far above the government's target of 8-10 per cent and compared with last year's 8.1 per cent.

Foreign currency dealers said there was demand for shekels immediately after the announcement. "The market is quite nervous. We didn't expect such a high interest rate. We expect the shekel to strengthen against the dollar," a dealer at Bank Leumi said.

The stock market was expected to weaken on the news.

"The market was shocked by the high interest rate. We predict the markets will fall by one to two per cent today," said Daniela Finn, head of sales at Batucha Securities and Investments.

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, a hawk in the battle against inflation, recently won a vote of confidence from newly-elected Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who asked him to serve a second five-year term at the central bank and expressed strong support for his policies.

Mr. Frenkel has long urged reduced government spending to help control inflation. The central bank noted that the government's budget deficit in the first five months was three billion shekels (\$925 million) above the planned target for those months, without giving further details. The budget deficit target for 1996 as a whole is a 7.6 billion shekels.

"After many months in which monetary policy has shouldered the burden of tightening, there have now

been created the conditions that will enable the redesign of economic policy and at its centre budgetary tightening," the Bank of Israel said in a statement, in reference to the new government.

The new finance minister, Dan Meridor, backed spending cuts on taking office last week, but has yet to announce any economic measures.

"Until a fiscal tightening will take place and bear fruit, it is important that monetary policy will prevent a further decline in real interest rates and thus contribute to stability, which is a necessary condition for continuing growth," the central bank said.

Today's rate rise was the largest since November 1994 when the central bank also raised rates by 1.5 percentage points.

Calm markets smooth the way for G 7 monetary accord

PARIS (AFP) — The prevailing calm in foreign exchange markets and the recovery in the once-turbulent U.S. dollar should enable the world's richest nations to steer a steady course for global currency stability, as they prepare for their annual summit.

A report by finance ministers from the Group of Seven industrialised nations is expected to be recommended for adoption at next week's Lyon Summit by France, which currently holds the G 7 presidency.

French Economy Minister Jean Arthuis described the still-confidential report on Thursday as "very good" — in contrast to the "information document" which France refused to accept at last year's G 7 meeting in Halifax, Canada.

The four main themes in this year's document

reflect the search for common ground among those nations traditionally in favour of a more organised international monetary system, like Japan and France, and the supporters of "laissez-faire" flexible exchange rates such as Britain and Canada.

The consensus is expected to reflect the compromise position adopted by the U.S. administration of President Bill Clinton.

"When one measures where we've come from, this report is satisfactory on the whole," one source said.

The compromise nevertheless clearly leans in favour of market-driven solutions, insofar as they do not put into question the Plaza or Louvre accords of the 1980s or envisage the idea of a tax on currency speculation.

Rather, international monetary stability appears to be the result of better economic policy coordination, a greater understanding among policy makers of the market operators, stronger self-discipline among the different players and the increased role of the monetary police — the central banks and the International Monetary Fund.

On the theme of multilateral surveillance and economic policy coordination, the finance ministers want to encourage a real dialogue within the G 7, rather than a mere mix of monologues.

On foreign exchange cooperation, the report agrees that central bank intervention, well used, can prove to be efficient.

Supervision of credit risks is well-recognised as a key element in the stability of the international monetary system and the report has recommended that it be extended to emerging markets.

Finally, in the same vein as the decisions taken at Halifax, the report ratifies the role of the IMF both surveillance and the mobilisation of finances in crises such as the collapse of the

Mexican peso in 1994-95.

The "ordered recovery" of the dollar, according to the terms of a G 7 communiqué in April 1995 in Washington, has done much to defuse the atmosphere. Since the lows plunged in the winter of 1995, the U.S. currency has gained 30 per cent against the yen and about 13 per cent against the German mark.

But its performance against the mark is regarded as insufficient by a good number of Europeans.

"Against the mark, the dollar remains clearly undervalued," said one European monetary source, contradicting a recent Bundesbank report that the excessive appreciation of the mark has been corrected.

Along with the November presidential elections in the United States, the possible reversal of monetary policy in Japan or Germany and the obstacles on the path towards a single European currency, any agreement on international monetary stability to emerge at Lyon will inevitably be subject to the toughest test of all — on financial markets.

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR TUESDAY JUNE 25, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Plan how much you have to spend for gifts and festivities at this time: budget wisely and be more economical and sensible.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) You may disagree about a matter connected with a fellow associate so try to time the affair down. Find the right way to put your point across.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Get your coming activities nicely organised today so that you can handle them wisely. A fellow associate may not agree with your now.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Study what to buy for your best friends so you can please them for the days ahead. Be loyal to your mate for there to be harmony in your home.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Try to coordinate outside situations with home conditions at this time and establish greater diplomacy around you for there to be harmony.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You have many ideas which can be put into operation during the daytime today and can gain practical benefits for your success.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Study the ideas of others so that you can improve dealings with them from the monetary standpoint. Help your mate feel more secure.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A fellow associate can be lucky in handling an affair for you today, so relegate it to him or her. Show more patience to those you meet.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get into the right condition — mental and physical — for the days ahead. Rid yourself of limitations and free more time.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to Jan. 20) Know what it is that your close friends want to have for the days ahead and buy them personalised gifts at this time for harmony to exist.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Spend time at home so that you can everything in tip-top shape for the days ahead. Don't postpone seeing a bigwig today and you can be very successful.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is a good day to make visits, reach others by telephone, etc. Be very careful while driving on the highway or you could be in great difficulty.

Birthstone of June: Emerald — Citrine.

5% annual growth ahead for South American trade bloc — official

Buenos Aires (AFP) — South America's booming trade bloc Mercosur should grow by five per cent per year as of 2001, Argentina's Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo forecast Monday.

"We are going to move forward in recovering (the bloc's) growth" as Argentina and Brazil "consolidate their stability," Mr. Cavallo told business leaders at a World Economic Forum meeting here.

Within five years, he said, "Mercosur will have sustained five per cent annual growth year after year."

Short for common market of the south, Mercosur groups industrial and agro-powers Argentina and Brazil with Uruguay and Paraguay in a megamarket of 200 million consumers with a combined gross domestic product of \$800 billion. It is expected to sign landmark deals at a summit meeting Monday and Tuesday in San Luis, Argentina to dismantle trade barriers with fast-growing Chile and Bolivia. Mr. Cavallo said the bloc soon could do deals with other South American countries, including oil-rich Venezuela.

He also said Argentina would continue to push for negotiating by 2005 free trade deals both with the European Union and the

North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which groups Mexico, Canada and the United States.

The Argentine official underscored the progress his country had made on paper, growing an annual average 7.7 per cent from 1991-1994, with five per cent growth projected for this year. He said balancing the budget was now a top priority.

In a bow to widespread public concern about unemployment in Argentina — where the jobless rate tops 18 per cent — and Brazil, Mr. Cavallo said Mercosur's growth must come hand-in-hand "with adequate job creation."

At the summit in San Luis, Mercosur was due to sign an accord with Chile which calls for eliminating tariffs for 80 per cent of all products as of October 1. Chile will not become a full member of the bloc.

And Bolivia was expected to sign a framework agreement to negotiate an accord with Mercosur in December after voicing concerns about some protection for its soy and soy products markets. The Bolivia-Mercosur deal would take effect in 1997.

Argentina Foreign Minister Guido di Tella said the Chilean deal would be signed Tuesday and Bo-

livia's was "being finished. We'll see how much progress we can make in the coming hours."

Rules on product origin percentages reportedly still were being hammered out. "The negotiations are at an advanced stage," Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada told reporters.

In negotiating its deal with Mercosur, Chile got a measure of protection for its wheat and wheat flour producers which would be flattened by Argentine rivals. The barriers in that particular market are to come down only in the second decade of the next century.

World Economic Forum President Klaus Schwab said Sunday that Chile could give Mercosur a much-needed link to the Asia Pacific region. Argentine fruit and processed food exports may get a boost in the Asia-Pacific region thanks to its bustling business presence in Chilean ports.

But the fact the actual text of the accord with Chile had not been released ahead of the signing as observers suggesting that some points of contention may remain. Chile already does \$3.4 billion in business with Mercosur nations annually, but ran a trade deficit of \$700 million with them in 1995.

Tokyo stocks hit year's high

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese share prices rewrote the year's high for the fifth straight trading day Monday with the key market barometer closing 0.3 per cent higher on institutional buying of large-capital issues.

"Sentiment remains fairly optimistic," one foreign broker said, adding that the likelihood of further gains will be "enough to force some institutions to come into the market with some follow-up buying."

The Nikkei stock average of 225 leading issues rose 72.55 points to finish at 22,603.20. The Topix Index of all issues on the first section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange was also up 9.31 points at 1,718.91.

Brokers said daily gains had been mostly modest, leaving room for further advances.

"The stock average may challenge 23,000 as the

supply-demand situation remains favourable," Yamatane Securities Equities Manager Isamu Suzuki said, also pointing to stable interest and foreign-exchange rates.

Turnover on the major board totalled an estimated 450 million shares, against 514.15 million shares traded on Friday.

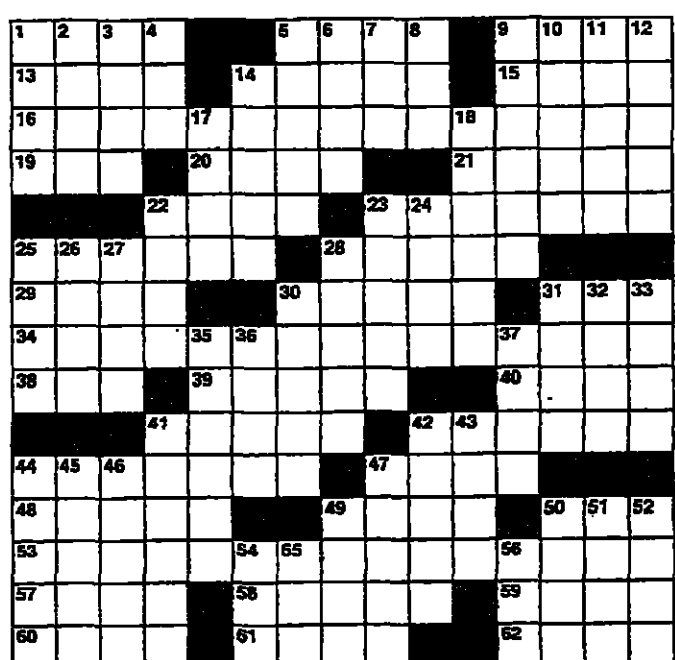
Futures-led buying was also seen at the outset and toward the close of trading. The upswing was seen likely to continue throughout the week, brokers said.

Friday marks the end of the second quarter, prompting some investors to touch up their quarterly performances by "window-dressing," brokers said. Even so, few expect a reversal of any gains in the week ahead, they said.

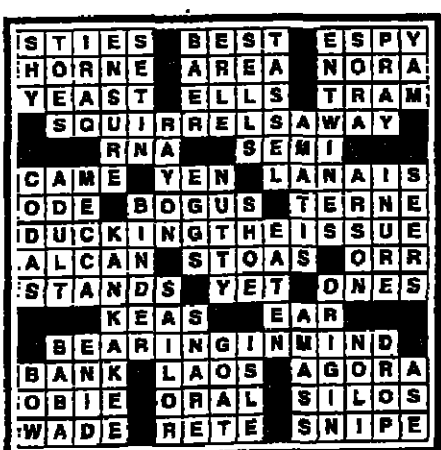
Advancing issues outnumbered losers 587 to 446 while 197 other issues closed unchanged.

THE Daily Crossword by Harvey L. Chew

- ACROSS
- 1 Cornmeal mush
 - 5 Fil
 - 9 Weapon handle
 - 13 "As lovely as a"
 - 14 Lance
 - 15 Wings
 - 16 A pair of Jacksons
 - 19 Part of a sock
 - 20 Skin growth
 - 21 Gain knowledge
 - 22 Money
 - 23 Aridity
 - 25 Previously
 - 28 Trot and canter
 - 29 Spread
 - 30 Echolocation
 - 31 Moon module
 - 34 A pair of Jacksons
 - 38 Bridge term
 - 39 Narrow street
 - 40 Finished
 - 41 Less restrained
 - 42 Marshall Dillon
 - 44 Elves
 - 47 PA port
 - 48 Staggering
 - 49 Guinness
 - 50 Container for peas
 - 53 A pair of Jacksons
 - 57 "Let us take it — comes!" (Gilbert)
 - 58 Labyrinths
 - 59 Tear apart
 - 60 Japanese syllabic writing
 - 61 Mimic
 - 62 Counterfeit



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- DOWN
- 1 FBI, e.g.
 - 2 Florence's river
 - 3 Ancient Persian
 - 4 For each
 - 5 Not together
 - 6 Inclination
 - 7 "A Shropshire"
 - 8 Make a boo-boo
 - 9 Uta and Walter
 - 10 Pond scum
 - 11 Exhibitions
 - 12 Adolescents
 - 14 Marshy land
 - 17 Pitcher
 - 18 Beetle wings
 - 22 Thug
 - 23 Fop
 - 24 Iranian coin
 - 25 Fens
 - 26 She: Fr.
 - 27 Yard parts
 - 28 Dead duck
 - 30 Store events
 - 31 Affection
 - 32 Gives the once-over
 - 33 Damages
 - 35 Shoot forth repeatedly
 - 36 Sheltered
 - 37 Manner of expression
 - 41 Celebration
 - 42 Regions
 - 43 Opulent
 - 44 Pat of TV
 - 45 Certain cue in singing
 - 46 Ink ingredient
 - 47 Mr. Fudd
 - 49 Carpenter's tool
 - 50 Not guilty, for one
 - 51 Sty sound
 - 52 Miami's county
 - 54 Drs.' gp.
 - 55 Snooze
 - 56 What Sandy says

THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen

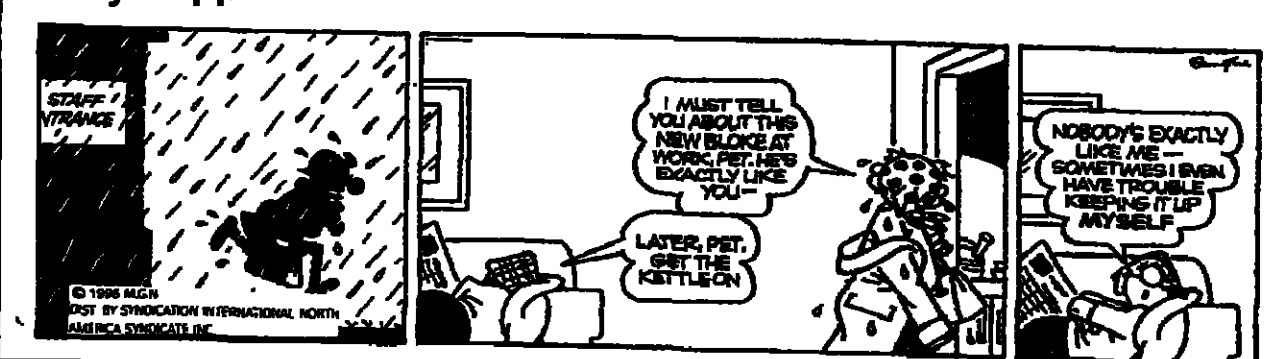


"I can't help it if I'm immature! Girls grow up faster than boys!"

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



oth the
ary accord

ABC to launch Islamic bank

MANAMA (AFP) — The Bahrain-based Arab Banking Corporation (ABC) is to launch the Islamic bank along with other institutional partners, it was announced in Manama on Sunday.

"The new institution will be called the Islamic Finance Corporation, with a total capital of \$100 million, of which ABC will own 25 per cent," Ahmad Abdul Latif, president and chief executive of the bank, told reporters.

The shareholders will also include other Islamic banks and institutions.

"We are planning to launch the bank in the first quarter of 1997, although it may materialise even earlier," he said.

Studies are being con-

ducted and other shareholders are being identified, and a clear picture will be available by the end of July, Mr. Abdul Latif said, without providing other details.

"The Islamic banking sector is a growing sector and the current market potential is placed at \$60 billion, and it is set to grow to \$100 billion over the next two years," he said.

"The ABC will not go into direct competition with the existing Islamic banks but instead pool their expertise and financial strength," Adnan A. Yousif, senior vice president of institutional relations at the bank, said. He added that the proposed Islamic institution will have its headquarters in the ABC building, which will also manage the bank.

Ticketless air travel coming soon — IATA

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Beginning next year, passengers throughout the world will be able to board planes without tickets as airlines seek to cut costs, an International Air Transport Association (IATA) executive said on Monday.

"By early next year, you will see airlines begin to offer this service," said Tom Murphy, IATA's senior director of customer and distribution services.

The system had started in the United States but had not been launched internationally due to legal and standardisation issues, Mr. Murphy told reporters at an IATA passenger distribution conference in the Malaysian capital.

The idea was to reduce paperwork in an industry where cutting costs in a cutthroat business was

imperative, he said.

Passengers would be given a number instead of ticket when booking their flights. They would then give the number at the check-in counter and get their boarding pass.

"There are not too many industries that require you to line up to get a piece of paper and then line up again to give that piece of paper back," Mr. Murphy said.

The system might speed up check-in and boarding procedures as well, he said.

As in many businesses, the Internet and new on-line technologies were changing the way airlines do business, IATA officials said.

"It is becoming increasingly evident that airlines are operating in an environment that is more and more driven and deter-

mined by rapidly changing technology," said Tajudin Rmali, IATA chairman and chairman of Malaysian Airline System BHD.

Despite developments in information technology, more than 20 per cent of an airline's total costs were devoted to distribution — the costs of putting passengers in their seats — ticketing, commissions and marketing costs.

"The distribution system that has been created has become an operational cost that is beyond the affordability of most airlines," Mr. Tajudin said.

Ticketless travel would not put travel agents out of business, Mr. Murphy said. The 67,000 travel agents in the IATA network "will exist forever in the future."

"But the role of the travel agent will change, no

question," he added.

Some 40 airlines offered information on the Internet and six of them were offering booking services — possibly 20 by the end of this year — on the international network, Mr. Murphy said.

"But are you as a customer going to travel through 40 companies on the Internet looking for the best fare? The answer is not for long," Mr. Murphy said.

Studies showed people enjoyed going to a travel agency, browsing through brochures and talking to agents as part of their vacation experience, he said.

"You can question how much these technologies will penetrate but there's no question they will penetrate," he added.

BUSINESS

A review of news from the Arabic press

Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Company boosts sales, exports

****ANIS MUASHER**, board chairman of the Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Company, told the company's general assembly that 1995 was a turning point in the company's drive as sales surged by 40 per cent, from JD 17 million in 1994 to JD 24 million last year, and expenditures dropped by 12 per cent to JD 80 million from JD 9.1 million in 1994. Exports, which grew by 41.5 per cent, accounted for 67 per cent of total sales, Mr. Muasher said noting that local sales also increased by 38 per cent.

The company's annual report showed that net operational profit amounted to about JD 3.2 million, 115 per cent higher than the 1994 figure. After deducting various administrative and selling expenses, the net profit stood at JD 2.4 million, an increase of JD 2.3 million or 197 per cent over the net profit recorded in 1994. Other figures showed a drop in current assets from JD 33.6 million in 1994 to JD 28.7 million at the end of 1995, mainly due to a lower inventory of chemical products and packaging material. Total assets declined by JD 5.3 million to JD 42.3 million at the end of last year. The shareholders' equity totalled JD 28.0 million at the end of 1995 compared to JD 29.7 million in 1994.

The company is distributing JD 1.8 million in dividends to shareholders at a rate of 20 per cent after having obtained the approval of the general assembly (Al Ra'i + Al Aswaj).

Large centre for conferences, fairs to be built at Marj Al Hamam

****THE GOVERNMENT** has approved listing a project to build a centre for conferences and international fairs among other investment projects that will be implemented in cooperation with the private sector. Tourism Minister Saleh Irsheidat said the project, expected to cost JD 71 million, would be built at Marj Al Hamam where the government has 420 dunums of land of which only 120 dunums have been utilised. According to Dr. Irsheidat many companies have started to present offers to carry out the project. He indicated that the large and the special status of the area would contribute to build a unique conference centre, parking areas and special centres for international fairs (Al Ra'i).

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nissan launches assembly in Morocco

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Nissan Diesel Motor Co. Ltd. said Monday it launched a large-truck assembly plant in Morocco in April with an annual output of about 250 units. The truck and bus manufacturer, which is part of the Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. group, said it had tied up with a local manufacturer, Consortium Maghrebin de Montage Industrielle, to assemble its 11-tonne condor models for marketing locally.

Japan auto output rises

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's motor vehicle output in May rose 2.1 per cent from a year earlier to 769,346 units, marking the first year-on-year rise in four months, an industry group said Monday. Car output alone rose 4.9 per cent to 583,334 units, the first year-on-year rise in three months, the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association said. Truck output fell 6.4 per cent to 182,209 units, the 12th decline in a row, but bus output rose 42.2 per cent to 3,803 units for the seventh straight gain, the association said. In May, domestic motor vehicle demand rose 3.7 per cent from a year earlier to 480,972 units while exports fell an estimated eight per cent, it said. Meanwhile, Japan's motorcycle output in May fell 8.4 per cent from a year earlier to 208,190 units for the fourth consecutive year-on-year fall, the association said.

Hyundai wins oil contract in China

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea's Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. has won a \$100-million order for the China National Offshore Oil Corporation to build an offshore oil platform, a company spokesman said on Monday. The massive platform, to be located 400 kilometres southeast of Shanghai, will be used to produce 20,000 barrels of crude oil and 1.6 million cubic centimeters of natural gas a day. Construction of the turnkey project is scheduled for completion in August, 1998, the spokesman said.

Japan supermarket sales down 0.2%

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's supermarket sales fell 0.2 per cent year-on-year to 1,353.7 billion Yen (\$12.4 billion) in May for the second consecutive fall, the Japan Chain Store Association said Monday. Supermarket sales fell 1.1 per cent in April. The biggest fall was in sales of clothing, down 1.9 per cent, the association said. The biggest rise in sales in the month was services, up 23.3 per cent.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET									
JORDANIAN BANKING CORP. - AMMAN - JORDAN									
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 24/06/1996									
PART 12 MONTHS	COMPANY'S NAME	P/R	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRADING	VALUE TRADED	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	
250.000	200.000	ARAB BANK	12.0	1.00	5	220	4,600	219.00	-
4.750	4.150	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	12.0	1.00	5	1677	7213	4.50	-0.07
2.700	2.180	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	4.9	0.00	5	1850	2923	4.15	-0.02
8.300	4.250	THE MORTGAGE BK.	11.8	0.00	5	2250	9900	2.10	-0.02
3.040	2.400	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	20.2	0.00	3	404	1219	2.75	-0.01
1.340	1.920	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	5.7	0.00	14	1324	2260	3.95	-0.01
4.130	3.300	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	18.1	0.00	1	307	1128	3.95	-0.04
4.590	1.700	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	18.3	0.00	3	567	990	1.78	-0.06
4.000	1.820	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	8.3	0.00	5	600	3952	1.22	-0.09
4.350	3.300	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	19.0	0.00	2	1000	12520	3.25	-0.01
3.850	2.420	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	1.7	0.00	4	2000	1400	2.70	-0.02
1.190	1.400	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	9	0.00	23	11400	9003	1.43	-0.01
1.810	1.050	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	9	0.00	3	150	1003	1.07	-0.01
MARKET TOTALS									
4.410	4.000	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	11.7	4.85	2	310	1335	4.40	-
9.510	2.200	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	6.4	8.89	2	1040	2340	2.25	-
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS									
INDEX: 123.42	CHG: 0.00		4	2350	3672				
1.900	1.510	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	10.5	7.95	28	20129	30934	1.82	-0.01
2.500	1.190	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	9	0.00	8	3200	3906	1.26	-
1.180	1.900	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	20.0	3.53	2	75	46	1.90	-0.02
1.160	1.000	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	16.8	1.00	3	1000	68	1.00	-0.03
1.460	1.090	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	12.5	6.35	5	1350	4237	3.12	-0.03
1.400	1.080	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	9	0.00	12	1400	2803	1.00	-0.02
1.190	1.000	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	10.3	5.13	2	350	683	1.95	-
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS									
INDEX: 111.96	CHG: -0.03		58	28804	43185				
1.250	1.170	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	9	0.00	1	1250	1543	1.25	-
3.900	3.270	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	18.8	3.04	23	7862	25859	5.31	-0.02
5.950	4.780	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	16.1	3.76	9	2950	13803	5.38	-0.06
10.180	8.900	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	9.2	8.92	3	713	1572	9.15	-0.06
6.000	7.000	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	7.7	4.99	2	325	2347	7.22	-0.03
8.130	6.950	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	6.8	3.95	5	1500	10223	6.95	-0.05
3.350	3.350	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	19.1	5.75	3	2975	12404	3.54	-0.06
6.450	5.900	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	7.3	4.27	4	161	961	5.90	-0.05
2.640	1.820	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	10.0	6.63	2	1000	1820	1.82	-0.01
3.110	2.400	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	6.6	11.63	1	300	774	4.80	-0.03
6.100	4.710	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	13.1	4.16	3	694	3553	4.60	-0.02
6.100	3.180	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	5.6	11.33	34	10250	35537	3.54	-0.01
1.740	1.450	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	9	0.00	7	7500	4161	1.58	-0.01
1.500	1.180	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	9	0.00	7	7500	4161	1.58	-0.01
2.720	1.210	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	9	0.00	1	500	675	1.25	-0.04
2.500	1.050	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	9	0.00	8	1500	1759	1.25	-0.02
2.130	1.080	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	29.2	0.00	27	8100	12803	1.21	-0.01
1.820	1.400	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	11.1	0.00	3	650	874	1.41	-0.04
1.450	1.280	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	7.2	8.44	5	1540	3461	2.39	-0.02
1.250	1.000	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	10.2	1.00	12	1500	1321	1.46	-0.02
1.990	1.000	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	10.7	0.00	16	10500	17030	1.15	-0.03
1.550	1.180	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	26.7	0.00	27	7175	8753	1.23	-0.02
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS									
INDEX: 110.04	CHG: -0.77		206	71125	163820				
GRAND TOTAL									
INDEX: 141.32	CHG: -0.35		353	253036	519348				
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 24/06/1996									
1.520	690	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	38.4	0.00	3	348	239	1.70	-0.01
1.000	740	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	72.7	0.00	4	2500	630	1.76	-
1.340	630	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	0	0.00	3	2000	1357	0.99	-
1.160	630	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	0	0.00	3	2000	1260	0.63	-
1.920	1.300	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	8	0.00	1	9930	13579	1.53	-0.01
1.100	700	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	8	0.00	5	3764	2730	1.73	-
1.910	910	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	8	0.00	6	9900	42900	1.81	-0.06
1.130	680	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	8	0.00	12	9923	8237	1.81	-
1.030	630	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	8	0.00	3	2000	820	0.65	-0.01
1.820	1.100	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	8	0.00	8	9500	9025	1.21	-0.01
1.330	680	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	8	0.00	4	2290	750	1.70	-
1.970	580	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	34.8	0.00	3	4104	2298	0.86	-0.02
1.520	670	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	8	0.00	15	24300	20541	1.88	-0.02
1.970	640	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	8	0.00	12	3200	108	0.98	-
1.500	630	JOB. NATIONAL BK.	7.5	0.00	6	3500	2240	0.65	-0.01
GRAND TOTAL									
81	124319				105813				

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON(R)—Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

\$1.00 costs		
1.3636/46	Canadian dollar	
1.5298/08	German marks	
1.7150/60	Dutch guilders	
1.2620/30	Swiss francs	
31.48/52	Belgian francs	
5.1872/22	French francs	
1539.5/10	Italian lire	
109.00/10	Japanese Yen	
6.6410/10	Swedish crowns	
6.5410/60	Norwegian crowns	
6.5922/72	Danish crowns	
1.4095/00	Singapore dollars	
0.7904/09	Australian dollars	
7.7383/98	Hong Kong dollars	
One sterling	\$1.5402/12	
Gold (ounce)	\$384.30/384.90	

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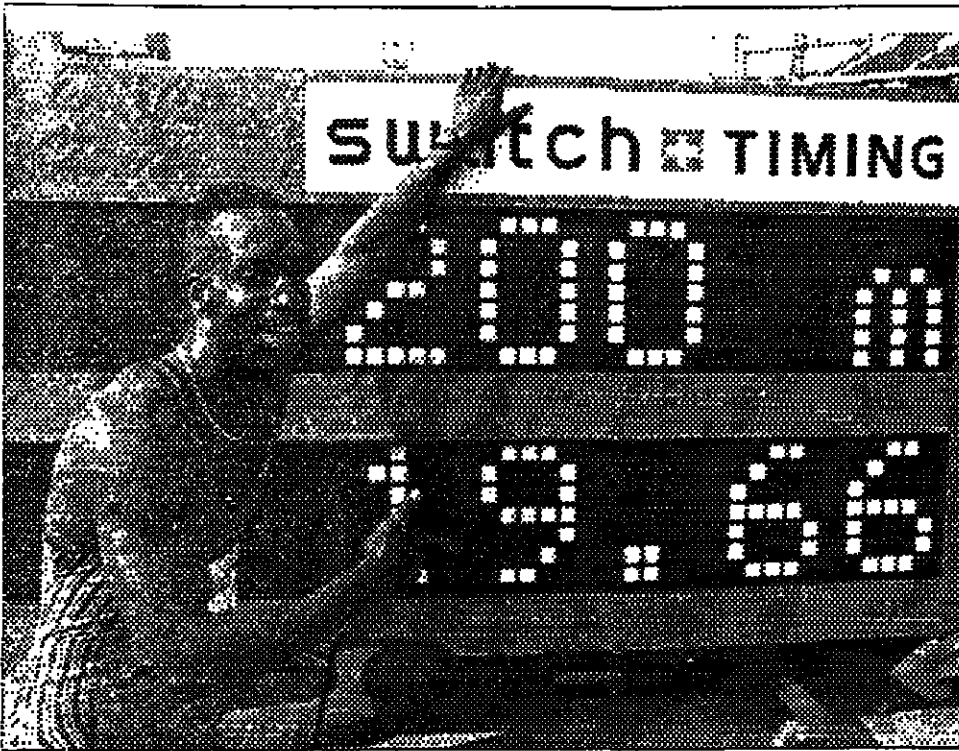
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Sprinter Michael Johnson poses next to a time clock that shows his world record time of 19.66 in the 200m sprint at the U.S. Olympic trials June 23. Johnson's time broke a record set in 1979 by Italian Pietro Mennea (Reuters photo)

Johnson breaks oldest athletics record, qualifies for Olympics

ATLANTA (AFP) — Michael Johnson smashed the oldest world record in athletics here Sunday to secure his bid for an Olympic 200- and 400-meter golden double at the Atlanta Olympics.

Johnson won the 200m at the U.S. Olympic trials in 19.66 seconds, surpassing the old Mark of 19.72 set in 1979 by Italy's Pietro Mennea. The American had a wind-aided 19.70 semifinal run Saturday.

"I'm confident I can come in here in another month and do the same thing, and get the 400 world record as well," Johnson said, looking ahead to facing the world's best at the Centennial Olympics next month.

Johnson was thwarted Saturday when the wind gauge showed 2.7 meters a second, well above the minimum 2.0 allowed for world-record runs. Sunday's wind was 1.7m a second.

Johnson's run was the second-fastest ever record in the event. Leroy Burrell ran a 19.61 in 1990 with a strong tailwind. Among his foes in that U.S. college race was Johnson, who was more worried about making the Games than breaking the record.

"I came around the curve and once I got a good curve, I started going for the record," Johnson said. "It feels good. I'm happy first to have made the team, second to have won and third to break the world record."

Johnson also led 400m U.S. Olympic qualifiers, having run through qualifying heats in both events at the nine-day trials.

"I felt great," Johnson said. "It was a rough week, a lot of races in a very short time. But I came through."

Johnson won his 21st straight 200m final. His 400m final triumph Wednesday was his 53rd in a row in that event.

"I felt like I had a really good start and was rolling really good," Johnson said. "I felt like I had built up a pretty good lead and just tried to relax and bring it home."

Carl Lewis and Gwen Torrence failed in their 200m bids. Lewis finished fifth in the 200m and failed to make the Games in anything other than the long jump, where he seeks a fourth consecutive Olympic title. His 20.20-second effort trailed Johnson and his fellow Olympians, Jeff Williams (20.03) and Mike Marsh (20.04).

Torrence, the reigning Olympic 200m champion, failed to qualify for the event by being edged for the third and final spot on the U.S. team. She was edged by Inger Miller after both crossed the line in 20.25

seconds. "It just wasn't enough today. I'm disappointed for sure. I felt like I was in fourth," said Torrence, who won the 100m trials to qualify for her hometown Olympics. "I could feel myself being in fourth and I couldn't do anything about it."

Carlette Guidry won the race with a time of 22.14 seconds with Darnette Young-Stone finishing second at 22.18. Torrence had entered the final with a nagging quadriceps injury suffered in the 100m final Wednesday, but did not use it as an excuse.

"I wasn't hurting at all and if I was I didn't feel it," Torrence said. "I can't blame it on my leg. I gave it all I had, I just wasn't enough. I'm disappointed on one hand, but my preparation is for the 100, but I paid a big price for it and those are the breaks."

Gail Devers and Jackie Joyner-Kersey qualified for their second Olympic events. Devers got out of the blocks early and controlled her 100m hurdle race. Devers, who was second in the 100 meters to Torrence, crossed the line in 12.62 seconds.

"I didn't feel like I got the best start, but I didn't want to press," Devers said. "It was just a matter of staying within myself and my lane."

Joyner-Kersey needed only one jump, to make her fourth Olympic team. With both of her injured legs heavily wrapped, Joyner-Kersey won the long jump.

"It feels great. I really wanted to qualify in the long jump," Joyner-Kersey said. "I took the one jump and thank God it was legal as far as not a foul and it put me on the team. I just kept saying to myself it's going to be okay. Don't let it pull. Just let me execute seven meters-something."

World champion hurdler Allen Johnson came within one-hundredth of a second of setting a new world record in the 110m hurdles.

Johnson tied the American record with a time of 12.91 in winning followed by top-ranked hurdler Mark Crear and Eugene Swift.

"I can finally say I'm an Olympian," Allen Johnson said. "Right now the race is all a blur and I was somehow missing the hurdles. I'm happy with the place and I'll worry about the time later."

Jack Pierce, who ran the fourth fastest time in history Saturday, did not finish after stumbling over the first hurdle and falling. Two-time gold medalist Roger Kingdom failed to reach the Olympics for a second straight time placing fifth.

China's Wang passes number of dope tests

BEIJING (R) — Track world record holder Wang Junxia has passed more than 10 dope tests in the last 12 months, a Chinese sports official said Monday.

"Since July 1 last year until now we have administered dope tests more than 10 times," On Wang Junxia. Excluding tests administered by the international amateur athletic federation," Yang Tianle, director of the National Research Institute of Sports Medicine, said in an interview.

Wang, the women's 10,000 metres world record holder, is the only former member of the once-formidable "Ma family army" of women long-distance runners to have qualified for next month's Atlanta Olympics.

Yang's institute runs the doping control centre of China, which has increasing out-of-competition testing in the last 12 months.

The centre had this year administered 657 out-of-competition tests by June 18, up 142 percent compared with the same 1995 period, Yang said.

It carried out 2,100 dope tests in 1995, with 13 athletes testing positive, compared with 1,418 tests and 14 testing positive in 1994, he said.

Accusations of systematic doping have dogged China since 11 Chinese athletes, including seven swimmers, were suspended from competition in 1994 after testing positive for banned performance-enhancing drugs at the Asian games in Hiroshima.

Epsom winner out of Irish Derby

LONDON (R) — Epsom Derby winner Shaamit will not run in Sunday's Irish Derby at the Curragh after injuring a leg at the weekend, trainer William Haggas said on Monday.

Shaamit had been favourite for Sunday's race after striding clear of Dushyantor and Shantou at Epsom earlier this month.

"He has twisted a shoe and is lame and sore," Haggas said. "It was found at evening stables last night so we have taken the shoe off and applied a poultice."

Bookmakers Ladbrookes revised their odds in the light of his withdrawal, promoting Dushyantor to 6-4 favourite. Dr. Massini was quoted at 2-1. Polaris Flight at 8-1 and Sharaf Kabear at 10-1.

Yankees sweep in Cleveland; Brewers down Angels

Braves beat Giants, Mets edge Reds in NL

CLEVELAND (R) — Wade Boggs keyed a three-run seventh inning with a two-run triple and Paul O'Neill homered and drove in two runs as the New York Yankees completed their first four-game sweep at Cleveland in nearly 32 years with a 6-5 victory over the Indians on Sunday.

Cleveland's four-game losing streak matches its longest this season.

In the eighth inning, Gerald Williams snagged a long fly to left field by Kenny Lofton, who was credited with a sacrifice fly that brought Cleveland within 6-5.

"That was the ballgame," said New York coach Don Zimmer, who guided the club in manager Joe Torre's absence. "If he doesn't catch it, they tie the score and there's a man on second or third with nobody out."

Torre left the game around the third inning to be with his family as they mourn the death of his brother, Rocco.

In Baltimore, Kevin Appier allowed two singles over eight innings for his first road win in nearly two months and Sal Fasano hit a two-run homer as the Kansas City Royals blanked the Baltimore Orioles, 4-0.

Appier (6-7) walked three and tied a season-high with 11 strikeouts.

Appier surrendered a two-out single up the middle to Roberto Alomar in the bottom of the first and a one-out infield hit to Gregg Zaun in the third.

In Chicago, Ray Durham doubled in Dave Martinez with the winning run in the bottom of the 10th inning as the Chicago White Sox averted a four-game sweep and stopped their eight-game losing streak with a 7-6 victory over the Seattle Mariners.

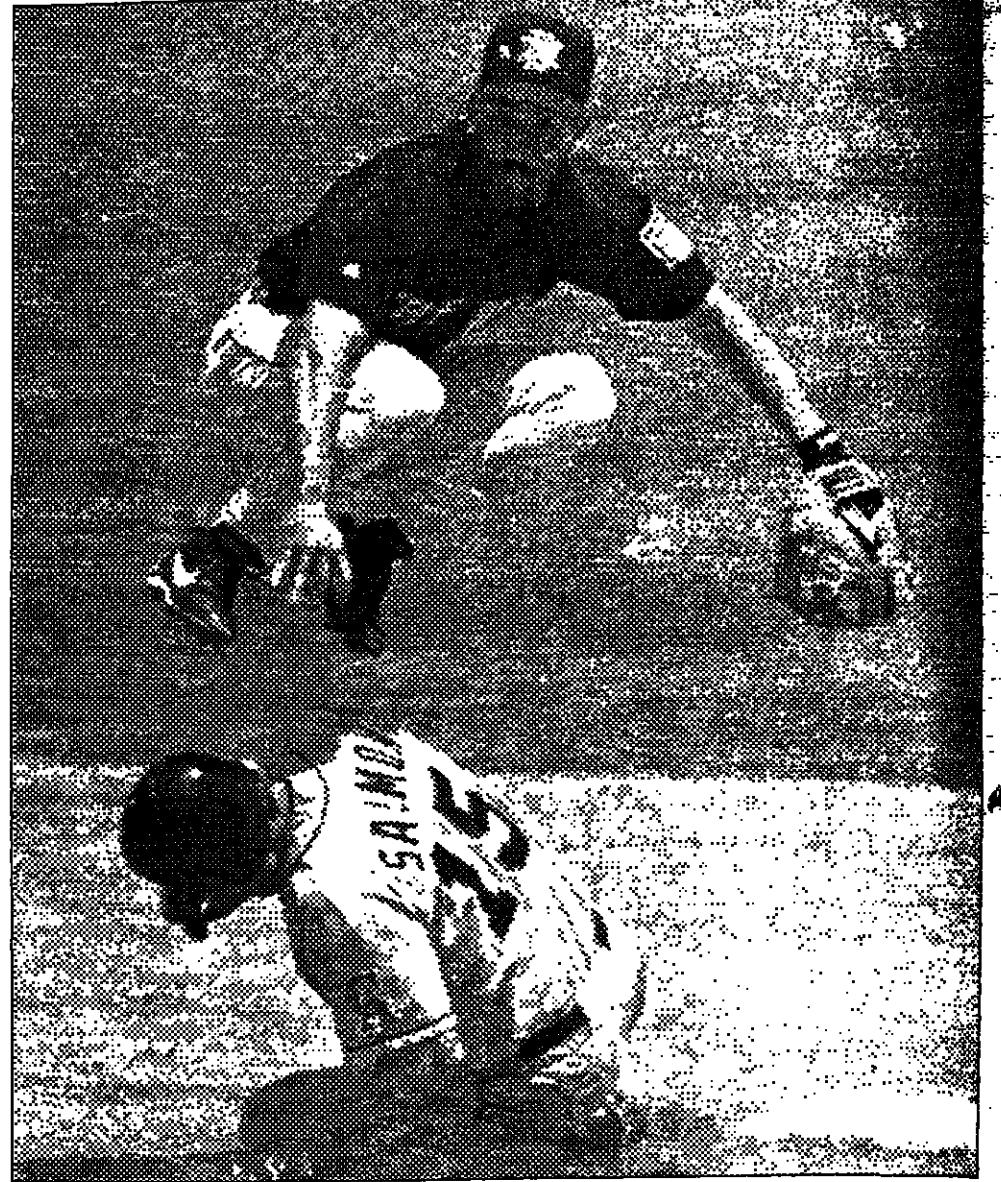
The White Sox won in their last at-bat for the eighth time this season and claimed their 21st comeback-from-behind triumph.

"That was my first game-winning hit," Durham said. "It looked like it was going foul and I just said to myself, 'please don't do this to me.'"

In Detroit, Travis Fryman drove in three runs and Bob Higginson hit a two-run homer to lead the Detroit Tigers to a 10-8 victory over the Minnesota Twins and their season-high third consecutive win.

Fryman had an RBI single in a four-run fourth inning and added a two-out, two-run double in a six-run seventh.

In Milwaukee, Jose Valentin's two-run double highlighted a five-run seventh inning that carried the



Milwaukee Brewers second baseman Fernando Vina leaps to avoid California Angels baserunner Tim Salmon in the third inning, at County Stadium in Milwaukee June 23. Vina's throw to first base doubled-up Tim Wallach to end the inning (Reuters photo)

Milwaukee Brewers to an 8-4 victory over the California Angels in the finale of an 11-game homestand.

Gary Disarcina had two hits and drove in two runs for California.

In Oakland, Jacob Brumfield belted a three-run homer in the seventh inning and Juan Guzman won his second straight start for the first time since April as the Toronto Blue Jays edged the Oakland Athletics 5-4.

The A's fell behind 3-0 after five innings, but got on the board in the sixth against Steve Wojciechowski (5-5) when Alex Gonzalez led off with a double and came home on Juan Samuel's fourth homer of the year.

Oakland took the lead for good an inning later as Mike Huff tripled and Tomas Perez drew a walk and Brumfield hit his sixth homer to make it 5-3.

At Texas, Jose Canseco's two-run single snapped an eighth-inning tie and capped a three-run inning as the Boston Red Sox snapped their five-game losing streak with a 6-4 victory over the western division-leading Texas Rangers.

Canseco drove in three

runs. Red Sox closer Heathcliff Slocumb pitched the final 1-1/3 innings for his 10th save.

Braves sweep Giants

Tom Glavine and Mark Wohlers combined on a three-hitter and Chipper Jones provided the lone run with a solo homer as the Atlanta Braves recorded their second straight shutout and swept a three-game series from the San Francisco Giants with a 1-0 victory on Sunday.

It was the sixth straight win overall and fifth shutout of the season for Atlanta.

The Braves have not allowed a run in their last 23 innings.

"I'm a streaky hitter. My home runs come in bunches," Jones said. "Pitchers are pitching me away and I'm taking it to left field."

At Florida, Charlie Hayes had two hits, two RBI and scored twice as the Pittsburgh Pirates continued their strong play on the road with a 5-3 triumph over the Florida Marlins.

The Pirates scored four times in the first inning against starter Pat Rapp (3-10).

"Something about this ballpark brings out the best in him," Pittsburgh manager Jim Leyland said of Hayes. "The four runs in the first inning was a big lift and we didn't give them any extra outs."

In Los Angeles, Mike Piazza launched his 18th homer with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning to break a tie and give the Los Angeles Dodgers a 4-3 win over the Houston Astros.

Xavier Hernandez (0-4) started the ninth and retired Roger Cedeno before Piazza homered to left-centre. Piazza was 3-for-4.

"I should have thrown him an inside fastball, because he hasn't shown me he can hit that pitch," Hernandez said. "I threw him a high forkball and he did what he is supposed to do. It was a mental mistake."

In Montreal, Moises Alou

homered and drove in two runs and Jeff Fassero allowed three hits in 8-2/3 innings to lead the Montreal Expos to a 3-2 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals.

"I felt good the whole series and I hit the ball well, even though I had little to show for it," Alou said. "It's about the time that I heat up most years. I had a long talk with my father last night where he wanted to remind me of a few things."

In New York, John Smiley scattered four hits over eight innings to outduel Robert Person and Reggie Sanders homered as the Cincinnati Reds edged the New York Mets 2-1.

Smiley (7-6) walked one, struck out five and won his third straight decision to move over 500 for the first time this season.

Jeff Brantley got his 18th save, despite allowing Jeff Kent's RBI double in the bottom of the ninth.

In Philadelphia, Ellis Burks hit a pair of two-run homers and Vinny Castilla homered and drove in two runs to lead the Colorado Rockies to a 7-4 triumph over the Philadelphia Phillies.

The Rockies jumped on Sid Fernandez (3-6) in the first as Eric Young walked in front of Burks' 18th homer. One out later, Andres Galaraga reached on an error and Castilla doubled him home for a 3-0 lead.

"Right now he (burks) is carrying the team," Colorado manager Don Baylor said. "When you're swinging the bat well, you have to do that."

In San Diego, John Flaherty hit a two-run homer and Joey Hamilton continued his mastery over Chicago as the San Diego Padres won for just the fourth time in 18 games with a 5-4 victory over the Cubs.

Hamilton (9-4) allowed four runs and six hits in 6-2/3 innings as he became the second nine-game winner in the National League. He walked four and struck out eight.

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Managing Director**

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Euro 96

Semifinalists ride their luck

BIRMINGHAM (R) — Talent, toil, technique and tactics may go a long way towards soccer success but the most important asset any team can have is the ability to ride its luck.

None of the four semifinalists at Euro 96 are in any position to dispute that, but for the fickle finger of fate, their chins would now be down on those chests currently swelling with pride.

Instead of discussing the chances of England, Germany, France or the Czech Republic taking the trophy, fans and the media could as easily be debating whether it would be Spain, Croatia, Portugal or the Netherlands.

"The hallmark of a good team is that it wins when it's not playing well," said French trainer Aime Jacquet after his side's penalty shoot-out victory over the Dutch, quoting the oldest soccer maxim — and the least controversial.

Would Argentina have won the World Cup in 1986 but for their good fortune that the referee was the only person in the world not to notice Diego Maradona's "hand of God" when he scored against England in the quarter-finals?

Would England have won it 20 years earlier if a Russian linesman had not wrongly believed that Geoff Hurst's shot, which proved to be the winner, had hit the station at the back of the net rather than the crossbar?

There's not even a question mark about Denmark's incredible luck in winning the last European Championship four years ago. They only got into the finals as last-minute replacements when Yugoslavia were thrown out as a political sanction.

The luck levels at Euro 96 are probably at an all-time high. England and France both reached the last four thanks to shoot-outs after 0-0 extra-time matches but both could have been lost well before then.

Spain had what seemed a



The Czech Republic's keeper Petr Kouba (left) and teammate Michal Hornak celebrate after their win against Portugal after the last quarter-final of the Euro 96 championships in Birmingham June 23. The Czech Republic won 1-0 and will now face France in the Semi-finals on June 26 (Reuters photo)

perfectly good goal disallowed for offside against England and the Dutch only got a free kick outside the area when French defender Marcel Desailly handled inside the box six minutes from the end of regular time.

Germany might be licking their wounds, too, if the referee had given dominant Croatia a probably merited first-half penalty. Instead the tournament new boys went out 2-1 after a match which bore no relation to the scoreline.

If the Czechs, the biggest surprise of the semifinals, deserved to beat Portugal 1-0, they have not forgotten that they only reached the last eight by a margin of 90 seconds.

But for Vladimir Smicer's late equaliser to earn a 3-3 draw with Russia, the Czechs would have been back in Prague instead of playing the Portuguese in Birmingham.

For two of the four, the luck has to run out on Wednesday when the semifinals are played.

The Czechs may feel that theirs already has after an outbreak of refereeing yellow fever in the quarter-final ruled out four of their squad through suspension. If that does not make France confident that being paired with the Czechs is the best break they could have got, then a close scrutiny of the number of goals conceded by the four semifinalists should reassure them.

It runs like this — Germany 1, England 2, France 2, Czech Republic 6.

Germany, too, may reckon they have more than just 70,000 baying English fans against them at Wembley on Wednesday.

After losing their most experienced defender, Jurgen Kohler through injury and then midfielder Mario Basler, their squad suffered major depletion with the loss of their incompensable top scorer Jurgen Klinsmann on Sunday.

Has someone somewhere already decided on an England-France final?

Many arduous climbs await Tour king Indurain

PARIS (R) — Miguel Indurain faces many arduous climbs on his way to what could be a record sixth triumph in the world's greatest cycle race.

The 1996 Tour de France, which starts on Saturday from Den Bosch, in the Netherlands, promises to be particularly strenuous with eight mountain stages and only one rest day.

After leaving Den Bosch, the riders will go through Belgium to go to France, then make other cross-border incursions into Italy and Spain before reaching Paris, where the race will end on July 21.

When the itinerary was presented late last year, Spaniard Indurain, who won the race the last five years, understood it would be tough.

"It's a very hard tour, very complicated," he said after discovering the climbs which take the Tour clockwise through France, taking in the Alps, Jura, Massif Central and Pyrenees.

"The really hard part will be the section in the Alps and Massif Central," he added.

One good news for Indurain is that the traditional team time-trial has been dropped by the organisers. The undisputed Tour king has often lost a handful of seconds in that exercise in the past as his Banesto team is not quite as strong as the Mapei and once stables.

Indurain, a master against

Becker through on day of shocks and surprises

Sampras wins, Chang out of Wimbledon

LONDON (AFP) — Pete Sampras, who is bidding for a fourth consecutive singles title, recovered from an early lapse in his first match at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships on Monday to beat compatriot Richey Reneberg in four sets.

The world number-one scored a 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 victory in 2hrs 14mins in front of a packed centre-court to reach a second-round showdown against Mark Philippoussis of Australia or Javier Frana of Argentina.

Meanwhile, three-times champion Boris Becker gave an awesome display of power and accuracy to cruise safely into the second-round of the men's singles. But his ruthless 6-0, 6-2, 6-3 victory in 1hr 27mins over Frenchman Jean-Philippe Fleurian contrasted starkly with the poor showing of seeded players Michael Chang, Jim Courier and Arnaud Boetsch.

All three were beaten. Sixth-seed Michael Chang went out to Spain's Albert Costa in four sets 6-3, 6-7 (5/7), 6-7 (1/7), 4-6 and admitted that he had been let down by his service.

"Alberto was playing some pretty good tennis out there today," said the 24-year-old American, who also lost early in the French

Open earlier this month when he went down to Stefan Edberg in the third-round.

Chang's defeat on the notoriously unpopular outside No.2 court, which has earned the nickname "graveyard of champions" because of the number of upsets there over the years, was followed by another upset on the adjacent court — eighth-seeded Jim Courier falling to fellow-American Jonathan Stark 2-6, 4-6, 6-2, 4-6.

And Arnaud Boetsch of France left things too late against big-serving Alexander Radulescu. The 91st-ranked German, who hammered down 27 aces to beat the 15th-seeded Frenchman 6-3, 6-4, 6-7 (2/7), 5-7, 9-7, now plays Stefano Pescosolido of Italy.

Pescosolido outlasted Chris Woodruff of the United States — Andre Agassi's Paris conqueror earlier this month — in a five-set thriller.

Women's third-seed Conchita Martinez, the 1994 champion, left Italian opponent Silvia Farina gasping as she raced to a no-nonsense 6-0, 6-0 first-round victory.

The 24-year-old Spaniard, beaming under a new closely-cropped hairstyle, was clearly delighted with her performance after

her disappointing quarter-final defeat against Mary Joe Fernandez at East-Bourne last week.

She now plays either Lisa Raymond of the United States or fellow-Spaniard Angeles Montolio.

Earlier, Kimiko Date of Japan became the first player to reach the second-round of the women's singles when she beat Fed Cup teammate Kyoko Nagatsuka in straight-sets.

The twelfth-seeded Date, a quarter finalist twelve months ago and playing with her left calf heavily strapped, needed just 55 minutes to score an impressive 6-0, 6-3 victory.

She now plays Anna-Gaëlle Sidot of France who put out Romanian qualifier Catalina Cristea 6-4, 6-1.

Fourteenth-seeded Amanda Coetzer of South Africa was also in a hurry and dropped only two games in her 6-1, 6-1 victory over Elena Wagner of Germany to reach a second-round clash against either Mana Endo of Japan or Meredith McGrath of the United States.

As the first matches of the 1996 championships were about to begin, it was announced that seventh-seeded Chanda Rubin of the United States had withdrawn from the women's singles because of a wrist injury sustained at East-Bourne last week while Germany's Bernd Karbacher, who was due to play seventh-seeded Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia, also dropped out after spraining his ankle during morning practice.

Rubin's place in the women's draw was taken by Karina Habsudova of Slovakia while Aleksandra Olasz of Poland moved into Habsudova's original berth.

Navratilova picks Graf and Sampras

LONDON (R) — Nine-times singles champion Martina Navratilova went by the form book on Sunday by tipping top seeds Steffi Graf and Pete Sampras to win singles titles at this year's Wimbledon which started Monday.

Navratilova, who retired from singles at Wimbledon in 1994, will play only in the mixed doubles this year.

She will join with fellow American Jonathan Stark to try to win a record-breaking 20th title and break the mark she shares with Billie Jean King. She and Stark won the event last year.

The first round of the mixed doubles will be the 39-year-old Navratilova's first competitive match this year. Speaking on a television breakfast programme, Navratilova said: "I can't imagine Steffi or Pete not winning. But I think the first week will be very

dangerous.

"I know Steffi says her knee is hurting, but something has been hurting with her for years. If you believe the newspapers, she should have been in the hospital, but if you look at her she is running like a gazelle."

"I think Monica Seles can be dangerous and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario will be hungrier than any of them."

She said she had no intention of playing sin-

gles again.

"I said I would play the occasional doubles or mixed doubles and that is precisely what I have done," she said. "I will be playing the mixed doubles, or as we call it the mixed troubles."

U.S. Olympian accuses coach of abuses

INDIANAPOLIS (AFP) — Olympic diver David Pichler has more to worry about than his rivals at the Atlanta Games.

He fears his coach, Pichler qualified for the U.S. Olympic team here Sunday by finishing second to Pat Jeffrey on the 10-metre platform, then accused eight-time U.S. Olympic diving coach Ron O'Brien of harassment and intimidation.

"I wasn't sure this day would come if I would make the team, but now that it has I just want this to be acknowledged," Pichler said. "It has been sheer hell on a regular basis."

Nine months ago, Pichler left the Fort Lauderdale

diving team coached by O'Brien's son Tim. Pichler accused the younger O'Brien of physical and verbal abuse and said they are "out to get him" for leaving their program.

"Since that time, I have been harassed assaulted and pushed," Pichler said. Both O'Briens denied Pichler's accusations.

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Opening lead: Jack of ♠.

When told by one of his courtiers that General Wolfe was mad, King George II remarked: "He is mad, is he? Then I wish he would bite my other generals!" When declarer makes a strange play, don't immediately attribute it to lunacy. There might be a good reason.

We are not thrilled with North's decision to raise clubs. With a fit for partner's minor and a stopper in the enemy suit, we would prefer a bid of two no trump. Had North declared, a normal spade lead would have given declarer ten

tricks as the cards lie — after a successful finesse, the club suit would have provided the transportation to collect three diamond tricks. Fortunately, South was able to convert to three no trump, a contract that would have succeeded against routine defense.

West led the jack of spades, and declarer took some time to consider the position. If the king of clubs were offside, the defenders could ensure five tricks by winning the ace of spades at trick one and shifting to a heart, scoring at least three heart tricks and a trick in each

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Israel to start building more Jewish houses in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israel said Monday it will push ahead with building 6,000 units of Jewish housing in Jerusalem in a move Palestinians say could herald a new settlement drive by the government of Benjamin Netanyahu.

Interior Minister Eli Suissa said the much-delayed plans to build a new neighbourhood on the southeastern edge of the city are about to be implemented.

"I estimate the road work will start in a number of weeks and building work in a number of months," Mr. Suissa told state-run Israel radio in his first interview since taking office last week.

He was referring to plans to build 6,000 new units to house about 30,000 people on a hill in territory captured by Israeli troops during the 1967 Middle East war and later annexed as part of the Jerusalem municipality.

The hill, known as Abu Ghneim, overlooks the West Bank town of Beit Sahur, which is under the control of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) headed by Yasser Arafat.

Mr. Suissa said he is "looking forward to soon going out and building in the area."

He described the land as the last open territory for building a large Jewish neighbourhood in East Jerusalem.

The Palestinians lay claim

to the eastern sector as the capital of any future independent state and its fate is due to form part of the negotiations for the final status of the territories.

But Israel views the entire Holy City as its "eternal, undivided" capital and the new Netanyahu government has ruled out any concessions that would allow Palestinian sovereignty.

Mosi Raz, a spokesman for the dovish Israeli peace movement criticised Mr. Suissa's plans, saying they "will deal a very painful blow to the peace process," he said the group will mount a last ditch court battle to stop the project.

Mr. Suissa's remarks came a day after an Arab summit in Cairo called on Israel to halt settlement building and to remove existing settlements in on occupied Arab lands.

Israeli policymakers view Har Homa's creation as vital in solving a housing shortage in Jerusalem.

In Jerusalem, they have generally been able to rely on tacit support from Washington for Jewish construction that stays inside the city limits.

But Palestinians see the step as a major blow to the nearby West Bank towns of Bethlehem and Beit Sahur, cutting them off from Arab parts of Jerusalem and leaving them little room for development.

"They are destroying the peace process in general and for Bethlehem, it means we will no longer be able to

expand and develop and welcome tourists," said Bishara Daoud, a Palestinian legislative councillor from the Bethlehem district.

Khalil Tufakji, a Palestinian geographer specialising in settlements, said: "I believe this will be the start of a wave of building in east Jerusalem. It is the start of the new government's policy."

Much of Har Homa has been under Jewish ownership since the 1930's, making it the exception to a pattern in which sprawling Jewish neighbourhoods in east Jerusalem were built on land expropriated from Palestinians.

Here too, some of the land for Har Homa was owned by Palestinian residents of Beit Sahur and Um Tuba village.

The plan to build the neighbourhood has been in the works for nearly a decade and had the support of the former housing minister in the old labour-led government, Binyamin Ben Eliezer.

But the bid to carry it out was slowed through a combination of court action and political pressures.

Mr. Suissa's aides declined to confirm that Har Homa will be a Jewish neighbourhood, insisting that who lives there will be determined by "market forces," but its name and blueprints which include synagogues and ritual baths point to no other possibility.

Turkey says Arab summit resolutions 'balanced, reasonable'

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey said Monday that resolutions adopted at the weekend's Arab summit, which did not mention a water dispute between Ankara and Syria, were "balanced and reasonable."

"We call the (Arab summit) document a balanced and reasonable one," Foreign Ministry spokesman Omer Akbel told a news briefing.

Turkish Foreign Minister Emre Gonenay, in letters to his Arab counterparts last week, had urged the summit not to accuse Turkey on its dispute with Syria regarding the water of the Euphrates River.

The Arab summit's final statement made no mention of the water rift, but asked Turkey to reconsider a military cooperation agreement it has signed with Israel.

"While wishing the continuation of traditional relations and the Arab-Turkish common interests, the Arab leaders are worried about the Turkish-Israeli military accord and call on Turkey to reconsider this accord in order not to harm the security of the Arab states," the statement released in Cairo said.

"We see this statement as a general wish toward the preservation of the balances in the region rather than a serious concern," Mr. Akbel said.

"Anyway, as we have explained several times, the Turkish-Israeli cooperation agreement for military training does not target any third country," he said.

"Plus, Turkey is not for any pacts or groupings in the region," Mr. Akbel added.

A Turkish diplomatic source said the Arab statement was "visibly mild" and apparently did not want to antagonise Turkey despite Syrian efforts.

The February agreement between Turkey and Israel mainly calls for cooperation in military training, defense industry and exchange of information.

Several Arab states and Iran criticised the agreement and Syria, the country most offended, has called it a joint Turkish-Israeli effort to squeeze Damascus.

Ankara accuses Syria of harbouring the leadership of the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which has been waging a separatist war in southeastern Turkey since 1984.

Damascus, in turn, complains that Turkey has not been providing it with sufficient water from the Euphrates, a claim the Turkish government denies.

Arab countries, sympathetic to Syria on its water dispute with Turkey, have traditionally expressed their support to Damascus on this issue in Arab League meetings.

However, in the latest Cairo summit, they failed to mention the dispute, pleasing the Ankara government.

Egypt says some way from reconciliation with Sudan

CAIRO (R) — Egypt and Sudan have a way to go before relations are back to normal, despite a meeting in Cairo between the two heads of state, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak told Egyptian newspaper editors.

"I cannot say today that everything is over or that there are no disputes between U.S. and Sudan or that everything is wonderful," the government newspaper Al Gomhuria on Monday quoted Mr. Mubarak as telling the editors.

"Improving Egyptian-Sudanese relations is linked to the measures the Sudanese government takes to regain the trust of the Egyptian people," added

Mr. Mubarak, quoted in the government paper Al Akhbar.

Mr. Mubarak met Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al Bashir on Sunday for one hour on the sidelines of the Arab summit in Cairo.

It was their first meeting since Egypt accused the Sudanese government of helping and sheltering the gunmen who tried to kill Mr. Mubarak in Addis Ababa a year ago this week.

Mr. Mubarak told the newspaper editors that Sudan had to take steps both on the Egyptian militants Cairo says have bases in Sudan and on the Egyptian real estate which the Sudanese government

has appropriated over the years.

"The basis for turning a new leaf is clear (Sudanese) position on terrorism and the terrorists who are there and the fate of the Egyptian institutions in Sudan which have been confiscated or closed," Mr. Mubarak said.

"These steps will be discussed with Sudanese officials and the Sudanese interior minister is here in Cairo," he added.

Lieutenant-General Bashir told reporters after the meeting that security officials from the two countries would meet to discuss Egypt's complaints that the militants are operating from Sudan.

IAEA expert arrives in Iraq for talks on nuclear programme

BAGHDAD (AFP) — The International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) deputy chairman Maurizio Zifferero arrived here Monday for talks with Iraqi officials about Baghdad's past nuclear weapons programme.

Mr. Zifferero said he was on a routine visit but added his agency was still trying to clear up "loose ends" over data disclosed by President Saddam Hussein's son-in-law Hussein Kamel Hassan when he defected last year.

The IAEA official said he would meet with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz and Oil Minister Amer Rashid during his five-day visit.

Hussein Kamel said Iraq had made swift progress toward building a small atomic bomb around the time of the 1991 Gulf war. Iraq later confirmed the programme existed but said it had failed from the start.

The IAEA said in January that Iraq has yet to tell the whole truth about the nuclear weapons programme it sought to speed up before the Gulf war.

"We have nullified some issues, while some others have been left for further clarifications. This process will take some time," Mr. Zifferero said, referring to "loose ends" linked to Hussein Kamel's defection last August.

Iraq said that relatives wanting to wipe away the shame of betrayal shot to death Hussein Kamel when he returned to Iraq in February.

Mr. Zifferero said Iraq posed no immediate nuclear threat.

"Iraq, at present, has no practical capability to restart nuclear weapons programmes, as it has been stripped of all industrial infrastructure which is needed to produce the basic mate-

rial, which is enriched uranium," he said.

Mr. Zifferero said his talks here would be included in a report he would submit to the U.N. Security Council in October.

Mr. Zifferero's mission comes after U.N. special Commission (UNSCOM) chairman Rolf Ekeus secured an Iraqi pledge here Saturday to allow unrestricted access to suspected weapons sites by UNSCOM and IAEA inspectors.

Iraq had prevented an UNSCOM team from searching all or part of five Republican Guard bases earlier this month. Mr. Ekeus also said Iraq offered to submit a report by the end of June which "is expected to contain full, complete and final declaration on all its weapons programmes," he added Iraq might also furnish a report on its nuclear programme.

Nearly 30 pro-Kurdish party leaders detained in Turkey, Anatolia reports

ANKARA (AFP) — Nearly 30 leaders of the pro-Kurdish People's Democracy Party (HADEP) were detained early Monday after a party congress meeting here, the Anatolia news agency said.

Unidentified people threw a Turkish flag onto the ground then hoisted flags of the outlawed Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) during Sunday's congress.

Ankara's state security court said late Sunday that it had opened an enquiry into the desecration of the Turkish flag, which is a violation under Turkish law.

Anatolia said HADEP Chairman Murat Boztrak, four deputy chairmen, the party's secretary general and about 25 other administrators were detained by police early Monday as they left a sports complex where the party congress was held.

Sirri Sakik, a former deputy and a leading HADEP member, said the incident involving the Turkish flag was "an act of madness carried out by some irresponsible people."

HADEP officials were also against the action, but could not prevent that act. And later the flag was reinstated," Mr. Sakik said.

He criticized the detention of party officials as "unfair," saying "security forces just took the flag action as a pretext to detain the HADEP leadership."

"HADEP supports rights for the Kurds, but is not a separatist party. It is a party of Turkey, and many ethnic Turks have also voted for it," Mr. Sakik said.

HADEP failed to enter parliament in Turkey's general elections in December after the party won only about 4.5 percent of the vote. The party grew out of the defunct pro-Kurdish Democracy Party, which was banned two years ago on the grounds of cooperation with the PKK, which is the main Kurdish group fighting central power in Ankara.

The PKK has waged a separatist war in southeastern Turkey since 1984 and more than 21,000 people have been killed in violence in the

region in the last 12 years.

Protesters, police clash

Nearly 60 people were injured when hundreds of extreme leftist protesters clashed with police in the centre of Ankara Monday, witnesses and security officials said.

Witnesses said scores of protesters were also detained.

The sources said the clash erupted when police intervened in a march by about 250 members and supporters of the small Work Party, who were protesting against a case opened by the constitutional court to shut down their party.

Those injured included around 50 demonstrators and 10 police officers, according to the witnesses. The high court has started proceedings to close the work party — which was set up only this year and is a separate group from the Labour Party — on the grounds that part of the party's political programme violates the constitution.

Arabs and Israel dig in at opposite ends of peace camp

CAIRO (AFP) — Israeli and Arab leaders had staked out conflicting positions in their peace negotiations casting gloom on the future of the peace process ahead of a new mission by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Twenty-one Arab leaders sent Israel a strong message at the end of their two-day summit on Sunday warning that if the new right-wing Israeli leadership failed to meet its commitments the peace process could collapse.

But new headline Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reacted sharply, saying he refused to be dictated to by the Arabs who were trying to take the peace process "hostage." A final declaration set out three main Arab demands: an Israeli withdrawal from all Arab occupied territories, an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital and the dismantling of Jewish settlements.

Any failure by Israel to honour its commitments "will plunge the region back into a cycle of tension and force all Arab countries to reconsider the steps taken towards Israel," the final declaration warned.

"The Israeli government will alone bear full responsibility for this," it added.

But the final declaration is in direct contradiction to the policy guidelines of the new Israeli right-wing government which rule out any further territorial concessions to win peace.

Never since the Middle East peace process was launched in Madrid in 1991 have the Arab and Israeli camps been so far apart.

Talks have been suspended on all tracks since a wave of bombings in February and March.

"Netanyahu's rejection of the summit results is regrettable but that is his problem," senior Arab League official Nassif Hitti told AFP.

Hopes were now pinned on a visit to the region by Mr. Christopher, due to arrive for talks in Israel on Tuesday before travelling to Egypt on Wednesday where he will meet Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

"We hope that the United States will be able to advise Israel to respect the commitments which were agreed upon within a legal framework," Mr. Hitti said.

"The Arab message is very important because

there are red lines which cannot be crossed otherwise the peace process will collapse," Mr. Hitti said.

"This clear Arab position will push the co-sponsors to intervene to influence the stand of those who want a peace process empty of meaning, and without any terms of reference."

Egyptian political analyst Ossama Al Ghazali Al Harb said it was essential for Arab leaders to forge a common front in the face of the headline positions adopted by the Israeli leadership "to say clearly 'this is unacceptable'."

But Israeli media said Mr. Netanyahu was reportedly drawing up a list of alleged violations by the Palestinian National Authority of the autonomy accords ahead of his meeting with Mr. Christopher.

He was apparently to use the list as an excuse for not implementing parts of the accords, such as the much-delayed Israeli redeployment from the West Bank town of Hebron.

Since he defeated peace architect Shimon Peres in the May 29 polls, he has repeatedly voiced his commitment to peace, but only in general, without getting down to detail.

Palestinians happy to see Arab leaders meet, but doubt outcome of summit will ease their problems

RAMALLAH (Agencies) — Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip were pleased to see Arab leaders set aside their differences at the Cairo summit but many doubted its outcome would lead to a softening in Israel's new headline.

"Arab states should stand united to help the Palestinian people all the time and not only during crisis," Marwan Abu Hweij, a 43-year-old blacksmith, said in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-ruled West Bank town of Ramallah on Monday.

"Of course we are happy that Arab leaders have met. But frankly, I don't think that they would help. Only the powerful can dictate policies. As far as Israel is concerned, these resolutions are only talk," he told Reuters.

Mr. Abu Hweij's comments were representative of those of other Palestinians interviewed by Reuters in several towns in

the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Fourteen heads of state and representatives of seven other countries, alarmed by the election of right-winger Benjamin Netanyahu as Israeli prime minister, held the first Arab summit in six years over the weekend to coordinate strategy.

Arab leaders held talks on their differences on the sides of the Cairo gathering.

In its final communique, the summit warned Israel that Arab leaders would reconsider concessions made in five years of Middle East peace talks if Israel's new government tried to change the terms for negotiations.

Mr. Netanyahu's Likud-led administration has said it would

negotiate with the PLO and Syria but insisted it would not agree to return land it occupied in the 1967 Middle East war.

Israel and the PLO began negotiations on a final peace settlement before Mr. Netanyahu defeated the outgoing prime minister, Shimon Peres of the Labour Party, in the May 29 poll.

Many Palestinians fear Mr. Netanyahu, who opposes the creation of a Palestinian state, would derail the talks by imposing conditions on the negotiations.

Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, desperate for an Arab stand that would back their demand for independence after more than three decades of

Israeli rule, watched the summit on television hoping it would produce resolutions that would preserve the peace process.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat hailed the summit meeting as a "new page" in relations between Arab leaders.

Some ordinary Palestinians shared Mr. Arafat's hopes. But many remained sceptical.

"This summit has closed the ranks among the Arabs in order to push the peace process forward and lined up the Arabs behind the Palestinians," said Ahmad Al Fajem, a 21-year-old policeman from the Gaza Strip town of Khan Younis.

But Muwafiq Al Hanbali, a 45-year-old municipal inspector in the West Bank city of Nablus,

disagreed.

"This Arab summit does not differ from previous ones. Arab leaders took decisions but did not back them with a mechanism to implement them," Mr. Hanbali said.

"I am afraid that just as in the past, these resolutions will remain ink on paper and will end up in the Arab League archives," he said.

A senior Palestinian legislator, Haidar Abdul Shafi, called Monday for the convening of an international meeting on the Middle East modelled on the 1991 Madrid conference which launched the peace process.

"I think it is necessary to reconvene the Madrid conference to

process," Dr. Abdul Shafi told a press conference.

Dr. Abdul Shafi, chairman of the political affairs committee in the Palestinian legislative council, set out two reasons for holding a new Middle East peace conference.

"Firstly it would reaffirm the basic principles of the peace process, which are violated by Israel," he said, "and secondly to promote our national cause in an international forum," he said.

Dr. Abdul Shafi was the chief Palestinian negotiator at the Madrid conference, taking part in a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation when the then right-wing Israeli government opposed any direct PLO participation in the meeting.

During the recent Israeli election campaign, Mr. Netanyahu also called for a new Madrid conference to reexamine the peace process, but he has not repeated the proposal since his poll victory on May 29.



Domestic violence linked to soccer defeat

LONDON (R) — A Scottish doctor warned Sunday that England could see an increase in domestic violence if it loses its Euro 96 soccer semifinal match against Germany this week.

Dr. Mac Armstrong, secretary to the British Medical Association, said marital abuse in Edinburgh increased after Scotland's defeat by England last weekend. Asked if England could see a similar trend he replied: "You effectively could. And it does have something about the effect of that kind of fervour on the national psyche," Dr. Armstrong, who was speaking during a briefing ahead of the association's annual conference in Brighton, southern England, added, "It does have a wonderful effect on the national psyche, but it does have particular effects on individuals and not all of them are good."

The Daily Telegraph newspaper said there were 27 cases of domestic violence in Edinburgh following Scotland's Euro 96 defeat compared to 14 during a usual weekend. "The number almost doubled. There is nothing else we could think of, apart from the match, which could have caused it," Alison Porter, the city's domestic violence officer, told the newspaper.

"More Filipino women literate than men"

MANILA (R) — More Philippine women are literate than men, a survey by the National Statistics Office (NSO) released Monday said. The survey found 85.9 per cent of females were literate but only 81.7 per cent of males, a gap of 4.2 percentage points, the functional literacy, education and mass media survey said.

Functional literacy is when a person can read, write and compute or is efficient with number skills, the NSO said. The survey did not say why Filipino men were less literate. A separate survey released by the NSO last week had said Filipinos were reading less and watching more television.

Dehydration blamed for explorer's mystery death

BEIJING (AFP) — A renowned Chinese explorer, whose death last week in the northwestern desert of Lop Nor had fuelled rumours of the supernatural dangers of exploring a long-hidden city, actually died of dehydration, a report said Monday. The blackened and blistered body of Yu Chunshun, 43, was discovered Tuesday after a 70-hour helicopter search by rescuers who had been unable to determine the exact cause of death.

"The medical examiner who autopsied Yu's body believed that the explorer died of sudden dehydration and exhaustion during his trek through the excessive heat," the Xinhua News Agency said. According to the autopsy report, Yu died around June 13, when the desert temperature exceeded 40 degrees centigrade. Experts had previously rejected the idea that Yu starved to death or perished in a sandstorm on the grounds that a half-fall bag of dried beef was found beside the body and his tent would have provided adequate protection from the elements. Yu died after completing a journey to explore the buried ruins of the ancient city of Loulan, once an important oasis on the silk road linking China and Europe. In 1981 a scientist from the Chinese Academy of Sciences went missing in the same area and was never seen again.

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